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 Somerset,
 Bergen,
 Burlington,
 Gloucester,
 Salem,
 Cumberland,
 Cape-May,
 Hunterdon,
 Morris,
 Suffolk,

The Honourable John Wetherill,
 Nathaniel Scudder,
 Stephen Crane,
 William Paterson,
 John Fell,
 Richard Smith,
 John Cooper,
 Andrew Sinnickson,
 Theophilus Elmer,
 Jonathan Hand,
 John Stevens, *Vice-President*,
 Silas Condict,
 John Cleves Symmes.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Middlesex, John Combs,
 Plymouth, John Covenhoven,
 Essex, Abraham Clark,
 Somerset, Jacob Bogart,
 Bergen, Peter Zabriskie, ..
 Burlington, Peter Tallman, .
 Gloucester, Richard Somers,
 Salem, Edmund Wetherby,
 Cumberland, Ephraim Harris,
 Cape-May, Eli Eldridge,
 Hunterdon, John Hart, *Speaker*,
 Morris, Jacob Drake,
 Suffolk, Caspar Shaver,

Daniel Moores,
 Joseph Holmes, jun.
 Caleb Camp,
 Alexander Mac Eowen,
 Theunis Dey, .
 Caleb Shreve, . .
 Robert F. Price,
 Samuel Dick,
 Jonathan Bowen,
 Joseph Savage,
 John Mehelm,
 Ellis Cook,
 Abia Brown,

Benjamin Manning,
 James Mott, jun.
 Henry Garritse,
 Reoloff Vandike,
 David Board,
 Joseph Newbold,
 Isaac Mickle,
 Elisha Bassett, jun.
 John Buck,
 Hugh Hathorne,
 Charles Cox, .
 William Woodhull,
 Thomas Peterson.

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V O T E S

Vol. 77.

A N D

P R O C E E D I N G S

O F T H E

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

O F T H E

S T A T E

C F

N E W - J E R S E Y.

First Session

At a SESSION begun at PRINCETON on the 27th Day of
August 1776, and continued by Adjournments.

B U R L I N G T O N :

Printed by ISAAC COLLINS, M.DCC.LXXVII.

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V O T E S
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 O F T H E
 G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y
 O F T H E
 S T A T E o f N E W - J E R S E Y .

PRINCETON, Tuesday, August 27, 1776.

TH E above Time and Place being appointed by the late Convention for the Meeting of the first Assembly elected under the new Constitution of the State of *New-Jersey*, the House met, and, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, August 28, 1776.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met, and adjourned till Eight o'Clock To-morrow Morning.

Thursday, August 29, 1776.

The House met.

Theunis Dey, Peter Zabriskie and David Board, being returned Representatives for the County of *Bergen*; *Abraham Clark, Caleb Camp and Henry Garritse*, for the County of *Essex*; *John Combs, Benjamin Manning and Daniel Moores*, for the County of *Middlesex*; *Jacob Drake, Ellis Cook and William Woodhull*, for the County of *Morris*; *Alexander Mac Erwen, Jacob Bogart and Reoloff Vandike*, for the County of *Somerset*; *John Covenhoven, Joseph Holmes, jun. and James Mott, jun.*

for the County of *Monmouth*; *John Hart*, *John Mehelm* and *Charles Coxe*, for the County of *Hunterdon*; *Peter Tallman*, *Caleb Shreve* and *Joseph Newbold*, for the County of *Burlington*; *Samuel Dick*, *Elisha Bassett, jun.* and *Edmund Wetherby*, for the County of *Salem*; and *Joseph Savage*, *Hugh Hathorne* and *Eli Eldridge*, for the County of *Cape-May*; the several Returns and Certificates were read and filed; whereupon *John Hart, Esq.* was duly qualified by *John Combs, Esq.* appointed thereto; and the said *John Hart, Esq.* being appointed for that Purpose, having duly qualified such of the other Members above-mentioned as were present, they took their Seats in the House.

The House proceeded to the Choice of a Speaker, when *John Hart, Esq.* was unanimously chosen Speaker of this House.

The House also unanimously appointed *Jonathan Deare, Esq.* Clerk of the House of Assembly.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, August 30, 1776.

The House met.

There appearing to be some Insufficiency in the Return of the Representatives for the County of *Suffex*, the House took the same into Consideration; and, after Debate thereon, and the Question being put, Whether the said Election be legal or not? It passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That *Casper Shaffer*, *Thomas Peterson* and *Abia Brown*, the Members returned for *Suffex*, do take their Seats in this House; whereupon the said Members, having been first duly qualified by the Speaker, took their Seats accordingly.

The Return and Certificate of the due Election of *Ephraim Harris*, *Jonathan Bowen* and *John Buck*, Representatives for the County of *Cumberland* in General Assembly, was read and filed; and the said Members, having been first duly qualified, were ordered to take their Seats in this House; at the same Time *Richard Somers*, one of the Members for *Gloucester*, was qualified, and took his Seat.

A Paper from the Council of Safety in *Philadelphia* was read, requesting that the House will give Furloughs to *Moses Yeomans*, Blacksmith, who is employed at the Flying Camp, and such Men as are employed under him; on the Question, Whether the House will comply with such Request? It passed in the Negative.

A Paper from the Librarian of the College of *New-Jersey*, by Order of the Faculty, offering to this House the Use of the Library in the College, was read,

Ordered,

That the Thanks of this House be given to the Faculty for their polite Offer.

Resolved,

That *David Olden* be Sergeant at Arms to this House; and that *Robert Hambleton* be Doorkeeper to the House.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Letter was read from Mr. *Philip Kearney* to the House, setting forth, That he was, on the thirteenth of last Month, sent to the House of Mr. *Richard Stevens* in *Hunterdon* County, by Order of the late Provincial Convention, and there confined, and desiring to have Liberty to attend his Business elsewhere, or be heard before the House touching his Confinement;

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Kearney* be heard before the House.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting of the Council and Assembly.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, August 31, 1776.

The House met.

A Letter from *John Stevens*, Esq. was read, informing the House that the Eastern Treasury Chest has been some Time in his Possession ; that he is Security for the present Eastern Treasurer, whose Accounts are ready to be offered to the House, &c. and requesting the House either to order his Bond to be cancelled, or continue Mr. *Stevens* in the Care of the Treasury, as shall appear most for the publick Good ;

Ordered,

That the said Letter have a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Combs* had Leave of Absence, on particular Business, till *Monday* the Ninth of *September* next.

The House adjourned till *Monday* Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, September 2, 1776.

The House met.

The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from Brigadier-General *Philemon Dickinson*, setting forth, that a Number of the Militia had deserted, taking their Arms, &c. with them ; and that a Number of the Militia are without Arms ; and desiring the Attention of the Legislature thereto ; which Letter was read, and ordered a second Reading.

On Application in Writing from the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, requesting that this House would exempt certain Persons employed at the Salt-Works erecting on *Ton's* River, from serving in the Militia until said Works are completed ; on the Question, Whether the House will comply with such Request ? It passed in the Negative.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from a Number of Inhabitants of the Townships of *Stafford* and *Dover*, in the County of *Monmouth*, for Reasons therein set forth, praying that their Militia, being few in Number, may not be taken from those Townships ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, September 3, 1776.

The House met.

Caleb Camp, Esq. one of the Representatives for *Essex* County, appearing in the House, was duly qualified, and took his Seat.

A Petition

A Petition was presented by the Committees and other Inhabitants of the Townships of *Great-Egg-Harbour* and *Gallway*, in the County of *Gloucester*, setting forth the defenceless Situation of those Townships, and their being exposed to the Enemy; and praying the remaining Half of their Militia may not be called out on Service, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Representation of the Field-Officers of the Militia of the County of *Salem*, was read, setting forth, That the Captains had retained the Fines from Non-Associators in their Hands, and, for Reasons therein mentioned, praying that the Fines may be distributed among those of the Companies who should abide their Lot;

Ordered,

That the same have a second Reading.

Ordered,

That whenever any Member moves to have the Yeas and Nays entered on any Question, and is seconded in his Motion, that the same be entered.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till to To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, September 4, 1776.

The House met.

The Representation of the Field-Officers of the Militia of the County of *Salem*, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Clark*, Mr. *Drake*, Mr. *Mehelm*, and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to remedy the Inconveniencies set forth in said Representation.

A Petition was presented by *Anthony Mousengeil*, praying an Exemption of certain Persons, Workmen at the Copper Furnace at *Raritan*, from Service in the Militia; on the Question, Whether the House will grant the Prayer of the Petition? It passed in the Negative.

The Petition from divers Inhabitants of *Great-Egg-Harbour* and *Gallway*, in the County of *Gloucester*, for Reasons therein set forth, praying that one Half of their Militia may not be called out on Service, &c. was read the second Time; on the Question, Whether the House do comply with the Prayer of the Petition? It passed in the Negative.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

Mr. *Coxe*, Chairman of the Committee of the Township of *Kingwood*, in *Hunterdon* County, informed the House that he had in his Hands the Sum of *Twenty-eight Pounds Three Shillings*, for several Fines collected in said Township;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* do pay the same to the Treasurer of this State, to be hereafter disposed of by the Legislature.

Mr. *Savage* has Leave of Absence on Account of his ill State of Health.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c. And

The

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, September 5, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill respecting the Appropriation of Fines in the Militia, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for repealing an Ordinance of the Convention of the State of New-Jersey of the twenty-first of August last, for recovering and appropriating certain Militia Fines, &c.* which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, September 6, 1776.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Paterfon*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 6, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Paterfon* do acquaint the House of Assembly that Mr. *Smith* and Mr. *Cooper* are appointed a Committee to meet a Committee of the House of Assembly, in order to form a Great Seal for the State, and make Report thereof to this House ;

Whereupon,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Covenhoven*, and Mr. *Coxe*, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council in order to form a Great Seal for the State ; and that Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Newbold* do inform the Council thereof, and desire them to appoint the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Holmes* reported, that Mr. *Newbold* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting. And

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Ellis Cook, Esq. one of the Members for *Morris County*, appearing in the House, was duly qualified, and took his Seat.

Mr. *Peterfon* has Leave of Absence till *Tuesday* next, on particular Business.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, September 7, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for repealing an Ordinance of the Convention of the State of New-Jersey of the twenty-first of August last, for recovering and appropriating certain Militia Fines, &c.* was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Representation to the House from the Chairman of the Committee of the County of *Somerſet*, reſpecting ſome Priſoners of War confined in ſaid County, was read,

Ordered,

That this Houſe do requeſt a Conference with the Council thereon, which was accordingly done.

A Meſſage from the Council by Mr. *Hand*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 7, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Paterſon*, Mr. *Fell* and Mr. *Symmes*, be a Committee to meet a Committee of the Houſe of Aſſembly in a Conference reſpecting the Priſoners of War, and other Perſons confined on Parole within this State, and make Report to this Houſe; that the ſaid Committees meet at Mr. *Whitehead*'s at Twelve o'Clock; and that Mr. *Hand* acquaint the Houſe of Aſſembly therewith;

Whereupon,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mac Erwen*, Mr. *Bogart*, Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Woodhull*, Mr. *Covenhoven*, and Mr. *Cook*, be a Committee of this Houſe to join the Committee of the Council in a Conference reſpecting the Priſoners of War, and other Perſons confined on Parole within this State, and make Report to this Houſe; and that Mr. *Board* and Mr. *Buck* do acquaint the Council thereof.

Mr. *Drake*, Mr. *Bogart*, and Mr. *Woodhull*, have Leave of Abſence on particular Buſineſs.

Mr. *Board* reported, that Mr. *Buck* and himſelf delivered the Meſſage with them entrusted to the Preſident in Council.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The Houſe adjourned till Monday next Two o'Clock, P. M.

Monday, September 9, 1776.

The Houſe met,

And, there not being a ſufficient Number of Members to proceed on Buſineſs, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, September 10, 1776.

The Houſe met.

Peter Tallman, Eſq. a Member for *Burlington* County, and *Robert Friend Price* and *Iſaac Mickle*, Eſqrs. Members for *Glouceſter* County, appearing in the Houſe, were duly qualified, and thereupon took their Seats.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Brown*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Covenhoven*, Mr. *Clark*, and Mr. *Wetherby*, or any three of them, be a Committee to ſettle all publick Accounts that may come before the Houſe this Seſſion.

A Meſſage from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Council-Chamber, Sept. 10, 1776.

THE Houſe having taken into Conſideration that it will neceſſarily take up ſome Time to get a proper Great Seal prepared for the Sealing of ſuch Commiſſions as have uſually paſſed under the Great Seal, and that it will be neceſſary for the publick Good that ſundry Commiſſions ſhould iſſue before ſuch Great Seal can be made; therefore,

Reſolved,

Resolved,

That the Seal at Arms of His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esquire, shall be deemed, taken and used, as the Great Seal of this State till another shall be made.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell* do carry a Copy of the foregoing Resolution to the House of Assembly for their Consideration and Concurrence ;

Whereupon the said Message of the Council being taken into Consideration,

Resolved,

That this House do concur with the Council in their Resolution of this Day respecting the Great Seal of this State.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Covenhoven* do inform the Council thereof.

A Memorial from *David White* of the County of *Somerset*, presented to the Continental Congress and referred to this House, was read, praying, for divers Reasons therein set forth, to be exempted from bearing Arms in the Militia, or to have Leave to return to his Children and Property in *England*, and that the House will grant him a Passport for that Purpose ;

Ordered,

That the same have a second Reading.

Ordered,

That a Committee of Grievances do sit on *Wednesday* in every Week during this Session, if necessary ; and that said Committee be a Committee of the whole House.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That the Speaker do employ some Person to bring from *Burlington* the Chest with all the Books and Papers belonging to the Assembly.

Mr. *Covenhoven*, from the Committee appointed to confer with the Committee of the Council respecting the Prisoners of War and other Persons confined on Parole in this State, made the following Report :

Princeton, Sept. 9, 1776.

YOUR Committee, appointed to confer with a Committee of the Honourable Council respecting the Prisoners of War and other Persons confined on Parole in this State, beg Leave to report,

1st, That it appears to the Conferrees that the taking, altering or vacating of Paroles given by any Inhabitants of this State, who may have been apprehended on Suspicion of being inimical to their Country, and the Disposal of Prisoners of War so far as Respects the Place of their Residence and Destination, being Business of an executive Nature, falls properly within the Department of the Governor and his Privy Council.

2dly, That it appears to the Conferrees that waving the Point of Right, Matters of this Kind should be referred to the Governor and Privy Council on the Score of Expediency, for otherwise no Restriction or Enlargement of a Parole can be made during the Recess of the Legislative Council and Assembly, or even during their Session, without a Law for that Purpose, which would be at once extremely inconvenient to Individuals, and unnecessarily burdensome to the Legislature.

3dly, That the Conferrees did not examine into the particular Situation and Circumstances of the Prisoners of War and others under Parole in this State, because

because if they either of Right fall within, or for the Sake of Expediency be referred to, the executive Line, it supercedes the Necessity of any Enquiry by the Conferrees, the Business in such Case belonging to another Department, and, of Course, not coming properly under their View.

JOHN FELL, Chairman of the Committee,
JOHN COVENHOVEN,
ALEXANDER MAC EWEN.

Mr. *Covenhoven* has Leave of Absence till *Monday* next, on a particular Occasion.
The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, September 11, 1776.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act repealing an Ordinance of the Convention of the State of New-Jersey, of the twenty-first of August last, &c.* being read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Holmes* do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Doctor *Samuel Bard* having produced to this House Bonds, with satisfactory Security, for the Sum of *Five Hundred Pounds*, agreed to be lent him by the Convention of this State, to encourage his erecting a Salt-Works in the State :

Resolved,

That the Treasurers appointed by the late Convention, or either of them, pay to the said *Samuel Bard*, or his Order, the said Sum of *Five Hundred Pounds*, whose Receipt shall be a sufficient Voucher for the Payment thereof.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Harris* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence in this Resolution.

Mr. *Dick* reported, that Mr. *Holmes* and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the President in Council.

Mr. *Tallman* reported, that Mr. *Harris* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The Memorial of *David White*, presented to the Continental Congress, and referred to this House, was read the second Time ; on the Question, Whether the House will grant the Prayer of the Memorialist or not ? It passed in the Negative.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Coxe*, and Mr. *Dick*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for the Support of Government.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*, informing the House that the Council doth concur with the House of Assembly in their Resolution of this Morning respecting the Security taken of Doctor *Samuel Bard* for the Sum of £. 500, ordered to be paid him out of the publick Money, for erecting a Salt-Works in this State.

The

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, September 12, 1776.

The House met.

William Parker and *Richard Hartshorne* presented a Petition to the House, which was read, praying a Clearance for a small Sloop or Vessel called the *Dolphin*, whereof *Jonathan Bowne* is Master, for *St. Eustatia* or *Coracoa*, in the *Dutch West-Indies*; and having produced a Manifest of the Cargo to be shipped on Board said Vessel,

Resolved,

That His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esq. Governor of this State, be empowered to clear out said Vessel, or any others that shall be permitted, until a proper Custom-House Officer or Officers be appointed for that Purpose; and that he be entitled to receive the Fees as established by Act of Assembly.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Manning* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence in this Resolution.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Tallman*, and Mr. *Dick*, or any three of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of *John Smyth*, *Joseph Smith*, *Samuel Tucker* and *John Dennis*, Esquires, late Treasurers of this State, and make Report to the House; and that Mr. *Dey* and Mr. *Newbold* do acquaint the Council thereof, and desire they will appoint a Committee for this Purpose.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Smith*, as follows:

Council-Chamber, Sept. 12, 1776.

MR. *Dick* and Mr. *Manning*, from the House of Assembly, having brought to this House for Concurrence, a Resolution of the House of Assembly of this Day, "That His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esq. Governor of this State, be "empowered to clear out a Vessel therein mentioned, or any others that shall be "permitted, until a proper Custom-House Officer or Officers be appointed for that "Purpose; and that he be entitled to receive the Fees as established by Act of "Assembly."

Resolved,

That His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esq. Governor of this State, be empowered to clear out any Vessel or Vessels which shall be permitted to sail from this State, until a proper Custom-House Officer or Officers be appointed for that Purpose; and that he be entitled to receive the Fees as established by Act of Assembly.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Smith* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell*, Mr. *Cooper*, and Mr. *Elmer*, or any two of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly to settle the Accounts of *John Smyth*, *Joseph Smith*, *Samuel Tucker* and *John Dennis*, late Treasurers of this State, and make Report thereof to this House; and that the said Committees

meet for that Purpose at the House of *Jacob Hyer* in *Princeton*, on *Wednesday* at Three o'Clock, *P. M.*

Ordered,

That *Mr. Smith* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Harris*, *Mr. Mott*, and *Mr. Brown*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for regulating and establishing the Fees to be taken by civil Officers and others within this State.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, September 13, 1776.

The House met.

A Resolve of the Continental Congress was read, recommending it to the Legislatures of the several States of *America*, to cause Inspectors to be appointed to examine and determine the Quality of all Gun-Powder imported into and offered for Sale, or manufactured within their Jurisdiction;

Ordered,

That *Mr. Price*, *Mr. Mehelm* and *Mr. Combs*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

A Message from His Excellency by *Mr. Secretary Pettit*, informing the House that His Excellency is in the Council-Chamber, and desires the immediate Attendance of the House; whereupon *Mr. Speaker* left the Chair, and with the House went to wait upon His Excellency; and, being returned, *Mr. Speaker* resumed the Chair, and reported, that the House had waited on His Excellency, who was pleased to make a Speech to the Council and General Assembly, of which *Mr. Speaker* said he had, to prevent Mistakes, obtained a Copy; which was read, and is as follows:

Gentlemen of the Council, and General Assembly,

CONSIDERING how long the Hand of Oppression had been stretched out against us; while the most assiduous Applications for Redress were either totally disregarded or treated with Insult:—How long the System of Despotism concerted for our Ruin had been insidiously pursued, and was at Length attempted to be enforced by the Violence of War; Reason and Conscience must have approved the Measure had we sooner abjured that Allegiance, from which, not only by the Denial of Protection, but the hostile Assaults on our Persons and Properties, we were clearly absolved. It may however, afford some Consolation to every Man duly regardful of the Convictions of his own Mind, and the Honour and Reputation of his Country; that *America* deferred this important Step, till the decisive Alternative of absolute Submission, or utter Destruction, announced by a numerous Fleet and Army, had extinguished all Hope of obtaining Justice; and the whole Continent, save a few self-interested Individuals, were unanimous in the Separation. In a Word, till the most scrupulous Conscience could, on the maturest Reflection, find itself justified before God and Man, in renouncing those Tyrants who, after having ravaged a great Part of *Asia*; and dissipated in Vengality and Riot, the Treasures extorted from its innocent Inhabitants by the Hand of Rapine and Blood; finally meant to prolong their Luxury and Corruption, by appropriating to themselves the hard-earned Competence of the *American* World.

Thus

Thus constrained to assert our own Independence, and dissolve all political Connection with a Nation insatiate with Plunder, and deaf to the Voice of Reason of Justice and Humanity; the late “Representatives of the Colony of *New-Jersey* in Congress assembled, did, pursuant to the Advice of the Honourable “the Continental Congress, the Supreme Council of the *American Colonies*, agree “upon the Form of a Constitution;” which by tacit Acquiescence and open Approbation, hath since received the Assent and Concurrence of the good People of this State, to whose Consideration it was, for that Purpose, submitted. Agreeably to this Constitution, you Gentlemen, have been chosen the Legislative Council and Assembly of this State; and being jointly met, have, in farther Purfuance of it, proceeded to the Choice of a Governor.

Having conferred that Honour upon one who feels himself very unequal to the Task; but at the same Time upon one, who, having during the whole Contest, taken an active Part in opposing the meditated Bondage, now disdains, in its most perilous Period, to shrink from a Station, which must render him peculiarly obnoxious to the common Enemy; he can with great Sincerity assure you, that it shall be his constant Endeavour, faithfully to discharge the Trust reposed in him.

He is moreover, confident, that how greatly soever you may find yourselves deceived in the favourable Opinion, you may have been pleased to entertain of his Abilities; he will never give you any Reason to call in Question, the Rectitude of his Intentions.

Gentlemen,

In the present Situation of Affairs, it is absolutely necessary to turn our first Attention to the Operations of War.

The Pay of our Militia lately called out for the Defence of *New-York*, (which has acquired signal Renown by the Spirit and Alacrity with which it engaged in the common Cause) admits of no Delay.

That of half our Militia now on Duty, will be due in a few Days.

Some farther Regulations respecting the better ordering the Militia, merit your speedy Attention.

A Law for regulating the impressing of such Articles as the Exigencies of the Service may require, is of great Importance.

No Allowance having been made for the Provender of the Light Horse when in actual Service, and it being impossible from their perpetual Change of Station, and being frequently employed as Expresses, for the Commissaries to provide them, it is reasonable the Men should be allowed an Equivalent for keeping their Horses themselves.

The fixing the Seat of Government in some convenient and plentiful Part of the State, calls for your seasonable Deliberation.

Such other Matters as may occur to me during the Session, and appear more particularly conducive to give Vigour to the executive Branch of the Constitution, I shall take the Liberty to lay before you.

To enable me, Gentlemen, the more successfully to execute the arduous Office, wherewith your unfought and unexpected Predilection hath invested me; it affects me with singular Pleasure, to find both Houses composed of the most respectable Characters. This affords a happy Presage of your Zeal and Unanimity, in promoting the true Emolument of that State, of which the *incorrupted* Voice of a free People, has made you the Guardians and Protectors. As it is our indispensable Duty, may it be our invariable Aim, to exhibit to our Constituents, the
brightest

brightest Examples of a disinterested Love for the common Weal ; and be inflexible in our Resolution, to know neither Friend nor Favourite, whenever his Solicitations appear incompatible with the general Good. In our publick Capacities, we ought to rise superior to all private Attachment or Repentment, and make the intrinsic Merit of every Candidate for an Office, our sole Rule for his Promotion. Let us, Gentlemen, both by Precept and Practice, encourage a Spirit of Oeconomy, Industry and Patriotism ; and that publick Integrity and Righteousness which cannot fail to *exalt a Nation* : Setting our Faces at the same Time like a Flint, against that Dissoluteness of Manners, and political Corruption, which will ever be *the Reproach of any People*. May the Foundation of our Infant State be laid in Virtue and the Fear of God ; and the Superstructure will rise glorious, and endure for Ages. Then may we humbly expect the Blessing of § *the most High, who DIVIDES to the Nations their Inheritance, and SEPARATES the Sons of ADAM*. In fine, Gentlemen, while we are applauded by the whole impartial World, for demolishing the *old* Fabric, rotten and ruinous as it was ; let us unitedly strive to approve ourselves Master-Builders, by giving Beauty, Strength and Stability to the *new*.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Princeton, September 11, 1776.

Ordered,

That His Excellency's Speech have a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Drake*, Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Board*, have Leave of Absence on particular Business.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, September 14, 1776.

The House met.

His Excellency's Speech was read the second Time ;

Resolved,

That the same be committed to a Committee of the whole House ; whereupon the House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on his Excellency's Speech, and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had gone through the Matters to them referred, and had come to several Resolutions, which he was ready to report whenever the House will please to receive the same ;

Ordered,

That the said Report be made immediately ;

Whereupon the Chairman reported the Resolutions of the Committee as follow :

1. *Resolved,*

That an Address be sent to the Governor in answer to his Speech.

2. *Resolved,*

That the Payment of the Militia of this State be immediately attended to, and the most speedy Ways and Means adopted for that Purpose.

3. *Resolved,*

That a Law for the better regulating the Militia be taken into Consideration.

4. *Resolved,*

That the impressing such Articles as the Exigencies of the military Service may require, be taken into Consideration.

5. *Resolved,*

That a proper Place for the Seat of Government be taken under Consideration.
To which Resolutions the House agreed.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Price*, be a Committee to prepare the Draught of an Address to His Excellency, in answer to his Speech.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Sinnickson*, informing the House that the Bill, entitled, *An Act repealing an Ordinance of the Convention of the State of New-Jersey of the twenty-first of August last, for recovering and appropriating certain Militia Fines, and to prevent excessive Distresses*, has passed the Council.

Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Drake* have Leave of Absence till Tuesday next.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, September 16, 1776.

The House met, and adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Smith*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 16, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Smith* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Security of the Government of New-Jersey*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence to the said Bill.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Dick*, and Mr. *Tallman*, or any two of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Accounts of this State with the Continental Congress.

Ordered also,

That Mr. *Clark*, Mr. *Mebelm*, and Mr. *Woodhull*, or any two of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of this State with the Provincial Convention of *New-York*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Zabriskie* and Mr. *Mott* do wait on the Council and desire they will appoint Committees for both Purposes.

Mr. *Mebelm*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to appoint Inspectors of Gun-Powder imported into and offered for Sale, or manufactured within the State of New-Jersey*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Woodhull*, Mr. *Buck*, and Mr. *Newbold*, be a Committee to inspect the Minutes of the last Session of Assembly, and see what Business was referred; and also to examine what Laws are expired, or near expiring, and make Report to the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 16, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Sinnickson* and Mr. *Elmer*, or either of them, be a Committee to join with the Committee of the House of Assembly to settle the Accounts of this State with the Continental Congress.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell* and Mr. *Condict*, or either of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly, to settle the Accounts of this State with the Provincial Convention of *New-York*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Symmes* do acquaint the House of Assembly with the two foregoing Orders.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, September 17, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Security of the Government of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

A Memorial from the Committee of *Elizabeth-Town*, praying a supply of Ammunition, was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Memorial from the Committee of *Elizabeth-Town*, praying a Supply of Ammunition, was read the second Time; and a Letter from Brigadier-General *Williamson* respecting the Pay of the Militia, and the Want of Ammunition, being also read,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Mott*, Mr. *Mickle*, and Mr. *Zabriskie*, or any six of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council in a Conference respecting the Subject Matter of the said Memorial and Letter; and that Mr. *Eldridge* and Mr. *Somers* do acquaint the Council therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Eldridge* reported, that Mr. *Somers* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 17, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Cooper*, Mr. *Elmer*, Mr. *Smith*, and Mr. *Condict*, or any three of them, be a Committee to meet with the Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on the Subject Matter of the Memorial from the Committee of *Elizabeth-Town*, and the Letter from Brigadier-General *Williamson*; and that the said Conference be held in the Council-Chamber immediately.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, September 18, 1776.

The House met,

And the Speaker being indisposed, and not able to attend the Business of the House, the House was adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met,

And the Speaker being still indisposed, the Members went to the Speaker's Lodgings, where the House met.

Mr.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the Subject Matter of the Memorial of the Committee of *Elizabeth-Town*, and a Letter from Brigadier-General *Williamson*, made the following Report, which was read :

YOUR Committee appointed to meet with a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the Subject Matter of a Memorial from the Committee of *Elizabeth-Town*, and a Letter from Brigadier-General *Williamson*, respecting a Supply of Ammunition, and the Pay of the Militia called out in actual Service, beg Leave to report :

That the said Committees having met in Conference according to Order, and having read and considered the said Memorial and Letter, came to sundry Resolutions, which are as follow :

1. *Resolved*,

That the publick Magazine of Ammunition kept for the Use of the Militia at or near *Elizabeth-Town*, is nearly exhausted, and that it is necessary that Provision should be immediately made for replenishing the said Magazine.

2. *Resolved*,

That it is proper that His Excellency be requested to procure an immediate Supply of one Ton of Gun-Powder for the Use of the Militia ; and that he be empowered to draw from the Treasury of this State as much Money as may be necessary for the Purchase and Carriage of the same.

3. *Resolved*,

That as large Bodies of the Militia of this State have been called out, at sundry Times, in the Continental Service ; and that for Want of a proper Mode having been established for the Pay of the said Militia, many Inconveniencies have arisen, and are daily encreasing ; therefore it is proper that His Excellency the Governor be requested to make Application to the Honourable the Continental Congress, and desire that they will be pleased to direct the immediate Payment of such of the Militia of this State as have been called out in the Service of the Continent ; and to establish some Mode for the regular and punctual Payment of such of the Militia of this State as shall hereafter be called out in the said Service.

By Order of the Committee,

C H A. C O X E, *Chairman.*

To which Report the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, September 19, 1776.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *James Drake* and *John Voorhees*, Ferrymen at *New-Brunswick*, setting forth sundry Disadvantages attending their Ferry, and praying that the Resolution of the late Convention reducing their Fare to one Third, may be repealed ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from *William Parker* and others, setting forth, that they are engaged in erecting Works for the manufacturing of Salt, and praying the House would give Encouragement thereto by advancing them a Sum of Money on easy Terms, in such Manner as heretofore has been done in this State ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from divers Inhabitants of *Stafford*, in the County of *Monmouth*, praying, for Reasons therein set forth, that their Militia may not in future

future be called out on Service, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Security of the Government of New-Jersey*; was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Cook* do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that the same has passed this House.

Mr. *Manning*, one of the Members, informed the House, that, from certain Information by him received, the Inhabitants of *Amboy* are great Sufferers by their Houses and Fences being destroyed by the Troops now there, owing, in a great Measure, to the Want of a proper Person or Persons being appointed for purchasing a sufficient Quantity of Fire-Wood.

Resolved,

That the Speaker do write a Letter to the Delegates for this State at the Continental Congress, desiring they will endeavour to have some suitable Person or Persons appointed in *Amboy* to furnish the Troops with Fire-Wood, in order that the Property of the Inhabitants of that Place may be in future preserved, and the Grievances complained of remedied.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Support of Government of the State of New-Jersey, to commence the twenty-seventh Day of August One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-six, and to end the second Tuesday in October which will be in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and seventy-seven, and to discharge the publick Debts and contingent Charges thereof*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Woodhull*, from the Committee appointed to inspect the Minutes and Laws, &c. made the following Report:

Business referred from the last Session of Assembly.

1. The Petition of that Part of *Somerset* lying in the Borough of *Elizabeth*, praying to be annexed to *Essex* County.
2. The Petitions for and against a Bill for the Manumission of Slaves.
3. The Petition from *Webley Edwards*, Prisoner for Debt in *Monmouth* Gaol.
4. The Petition from sundry Freeholders in *Burlington* County, praying that young Men who live with their Parents may be taxed.

The Committee do not find any Laws which have expired since the last Session of Assembly, or that will expire till the End of the next Session, except the Act for Support of Government, which expires on the first Day of *October* 1776.

Mr. *Mebelm* has Leave of Absence on an extraordinary Occasion.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

A Petition was presented from Captain *Joseph Badcock* and *John Ker*, setting forth, that the Company of Militia they belong to, have raised, at an extraordinary Expence, their Complement of Men towards the three Thousand three Hundred in the five Months Service, though other Companies have not raised any, and praying that their Company may not be called out on Service, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition from Captain *Joseph Badcock* was presented, praying an Allowance for taking Care of a sick Man in his Company while at *New-York*, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message

A Message from the Council by Mr. Fell.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 19, 1776.

THAT Mr. Fell do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to render certain Bills of Credit a legal Tender within this State, and to prevent the counterfeiting the same, and other Bills of Credit*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, September 20, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to render certain Bills of Credit a legal Tender within this State, and to prevent the counterfeiting the same, &c.* was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

And the Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to render certain Bills of Credit a legal Tender within this State, and to prevent the counterfeiting the same, and other Bills of Credit*; was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved unanimously,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Brown, and Mr. Cook do carry the said Bill to the Council and acquaint them that the same has passed this House.

Mr. Brown reported, that Mr. Cook and himself had delivered the said Bill to the President in Council.

On Motion,

Resolved,

That the Speaker and any two Members be a sufficient Number to meet and adjourn the House from Day to Day; and also that the Speaker have Power to convene the House whenever any extraordinary Occurrence shall render it necessary.

The Petition of *William Parker*, and others, setting forth, that they are engaged in erecting Salt-Works, and praying the House would encourage it by advancing them a Sum of Money on easy Terms, &c. was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. Combs, Mr. Mott and Mr. Brown, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

Mr. Dick, from the Committee appointed to prepare the Draught of an Address to His Excellency, brought in a Draught, which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, September 21, 1776.

The House met.

The Draught of an Address to His Excellency was read the second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House; whereupon the House resolved itself

itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the said Address; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had gone through the Address to His Excellency, and had made several Amendments thereto, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same;

Ordered,

That the Report be made immediately;

Whereupon Mr. *Combs* reported the Address with several Amendments, which being read,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 21, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the more easy procuring of Provender for the Horses employed in the publick Service*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Bill.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for the Payment of Incidental Charges.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Ten o'Clock.

Monday, September 23, 1776.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed to Business, adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Ten o'Clock.

Tuesday, September 24, 1776.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Christian Krows*, a Prisoner for Debt confined in the Gaol of the County of *Salem*, praying Relief, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The like Petition was presented from *Thomas Pitman*, a Debtor confined in *Burlington* Gaol; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the more easy procuring of Provender for the Horses employed in the publick Service*; was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, in the following Words:

Gentlemen,

YOU will see by the Papers herewith laid before you, how greatly inadequate are all the Regulations respecting the Militia of this State, now in Force, to answer the good Purposes thereby intended. The growing Evil, of which the Instance

Instance mentioned in Lieutenant-Colonel *Van Vorst's* Answer to Brigadier-General *Williamson's* Orders is the strongest and most melancholy Exemplification I have hitherto met with, demands your most serious Attention. I am therefore confident that your Zeal for the Defence of the State will induce you so to frame the Militia Bill, now before the Legislature, as to prevent, in future, the dangerous Consequences that may result from a similar Conduct in the Rest of our Battalions, who, to their great Honour, have hitherto regulated their Actions rather by their Love for their Country, than the Imperfection of it's Laws.

Sept. 24, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Petition from *Joseph Badcock* and *John Ker*, was read the second Time, and referred to the Committee of Grievances.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Petition from *Joseph Badcock* was read the second Time, and referred to the Committee of Grievances.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, September 25, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Support of Government*, &c. was read the second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House; whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the said Bill; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for Support of Government; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Thursday, September 26, 1776.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

THE Necessity of speedily regulating the Price of Oats, Hay and other Provender for Horses, to facilitate the forming a Magazine for the Continental Troops, will, I hope, apologize for my recommending to you to give all possible Dispatch to the Bill for that Purpose now under your Consideration; and to lay before you the Letter herewith transmitted as farther evincive of the Necessity of adopting that Measure.

Princeton, Sept. 26, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which

Which Message, with the Letter from *Clement Biddle*, Esq. Deputy-Quarter-Master-General, therein referred to, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. President of the Continental Congress, to the Assembly, with a Number of Resolutions of Congress; which were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the more easy procuring Provender for the Horses employed in the publick Service*; was read, and committed to Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Combs*.

Mr. *Harris*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for the better enabling the Judges, &c. to tax Bills of Cost, &c.* which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a Letter from the Honourable *Richard Stockton*, Esq. a Member of the Continental Congress, in answer to a Letter from the Speaker of this House, respecting the providing Fire-Wood for the Troops at *Perth-Amboy* and elsewhere in this State, with the Resolution of Congress thereon, which was read.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. Speaker being necessarily absent, the House proceeded to the Choice of a Speaker *pro Tempore*, whereupon *Theunis Dey*, Esq. was chosen to officiate till the Speaker can attend.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

I HEREBY transmit the Memorial of Captain *Neil* of the Artillery, accompanied with a Letter from Brigadier-General *Williamson*, shewing the Necessity of augmenting the Number of his Men, or reducing that of his Guns; which I beg Leave to recommend to your Consideration as speedily as the more important Business of the Session will admit.

Sept. 26, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message, with the Memorial and Letter therein mentioned, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. with the Resolutions of Congress respecting the raising four Battalions of Troops, &c. were read a second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Bowen*, Mr. *Eldridge*, Mr. *Zabriskie*, Mr. *Cook*, Mr. *Garritse*, Mr. *Moore*, and Mr. *Peter*son, or any five of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council in a Conference respecting the Subject Matter of the said Letter and Resolves; and that Mr. *Woodhull* and Mr. *Newbold* do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Woodhull* reported, that Mr. *Newbold* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the better enabling the Judges and Justices of the State of New-Jersey, to ascertain and Tax Bills of Cost, &c.* was read a second Time; on the Question.

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled,

entitled, *An Act to encourage William Parker and others, to erect Salt-Works in the State of New-Jersey* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Wetherby* be added to the Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers Accounts.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 26, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Condict*, Mr. *Scudder*, Mr. *Symmes*, and Mr. *Sinnickson*, or any three of them, be a Committee to join with the Committee of the House of Assembly in a Conference on the Subject Matter of a Letter received from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. respecting the raising four Battalions of Troops in this State to serve during the present War ; and that the said Committees do meet for that Purpose at the House of *William Whitehead*, at six o'Clock this Evening.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Friday, September 27, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee appointed to confer with the Committee of the Council on the Subject Matter of a Letter received from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. respecting the raising four Battalions of Troops to serve during the War, made the following Report, which was read and agreed to, *to wit*,

YOUR Committee appointed to join with a Committee of the Council in a Conference on the Subject Matter of a Letter received from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. respecting the raising four Battalions of Troops to serve during the War, beg Leave to report, That the said Committees met in Conference according to Order ; and, having deliberated on the Matters referred to their Consideration, have come to sundry Resolutions, as follow :

1. That it is the Opinion of the Committees that it is proper to comply with the Requisition of the Honourable the Continental Congress, by raising, as speedily as possible, four Battalions of Troops to serve during the War, and to be on continental Pay.

2. That, in order thereto, it will be proper to take the three Battalions first raised in this State, and now in the Service to the northward of *Albany*, or such Parts thereof as are willing to engage in the Service, into the Establishment ; reserving to the Legislature the Power of re-appointing the Officers, at the End of the respective Terms of their former Enlistment, as the two Houses shall think proper on a due Consideration of their Merits, and having due Regard to their former Rank.

3. That as to the fourth Battalion, and the supplying such Deficiencies as may happen in the three Battalions before-mentioned, it will be proper to give a Preference, both as to the Officers and Soldiers, to the five Battalions now under the Command of General *Heard* ; the Officers to be elected out of such of them as shall apply, or shall otherwise signify a Willingness to engage in the Service ; and the Soldiers to be enlisted by the Officers so appointed, so as not to interfere with their present Enlistment without the Consent of the Commander in Chief of the Army.

4. That it will be proper to send one or more Commissioners, with proper In-

structions, to inquire into the State of the Battalions raised in this State, and now in the Service, and their Disposition to engage further in the Service on the new Establishment.

Princeton, Sept. 27, 1776.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Mott*, and Mr. *Manning*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to oblige the Treasurer to give Security for the due Execution of his Office; and to prescribe the Mode in which the same Security shall be taken.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Smith*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 27, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* be a Commissioner to join with such Commissioner or Commissioners as shall be appointed by the House of Assembly to inquire into the State of the Battalions raised in this State now in Service, and their Disposition to engage further in the Service on the new Establishment.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Smith* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dey* and Mr. *Cook*, or either of them, be a Commissioner or Commissioners to inquire into the State of the Battalions raised in this State, and now in the Service, and their Disposition to engage further in the Service on the new Establishment.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Smith*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 27, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Condict* be a Committee to join with a Committee of the House of Assembly to make a Draught of Instructions to the Commissioners for inquiring into the State of the Battalions raised in this State and now in the Service, and their Disposition to engage further in the Service on the new Establishment.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Smith* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose.

Which Message being read,

Ordered,

DR. JOHN SMYTH, his Account cur—

To Balance of Account settled by the Committees, *Feb. 3, 1775*, £. 20550 : 13 : 11

To Cash received for Deficiencies on Support of Government for the Year 1774, viz.

<i>Bergen,</i>	-	-	-	£. 260 : 1 : 0
<i>Middlesex,</i>	-	-	-	307 : 4 : 2½
<i>Monmouth</i>	-	-	-	610 : 7 : 9

1177 : 12 : 11½

To Balance received in full of old Arrears, - -

137 : 12 : 2½

To Support of Government received for the Year 1775, viz.

<i>Essex,</i>	-	-	-	£. 144 : 18 : 6½
<i>Bergen,</i>	-	-	-	232 : 11 : 0
<i>Somerfet,</i>	-	-	-	13 : 17 : 0

391 : 6 : 6½

To Cash received on Bond for Deficiency of *S. Skinner*,

2920 : 0 : 6

£. 25177 : 6 : 1½

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Combs* be a Committee to join the Committee of the Council to make a Draught of the said Instructions.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to bring in a Bill to oblige the Treasurer to give Security, &c. brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, &c.* which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage William Parker and others, to erect Salt-Works, &c.* was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Holmes*, Mr. *Newbold*, and Mr. *Manning*.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Saturday, September 28, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for better enabling Judges and Justices of the State of New-Jersey, to ascertain and tax Bills of Cost; and for making Provision by Law for the Payment of the Services of the several Officers of the State; and for preventing the said Officers from taking exorbitant Fees;* was read a second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council to make a Draught of Instructions to the Commissioners for inquiring into the State of the Battalions, &c. brought in a Draught, which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Accounts of *John Smyth*, *Joseph Smith*, *Samuel Tucker* and *John Dennis*, Esquires, late Treasurers of this State, reported they had several Meetings for adjusting and settling said Accounts, and with Leave he delivered the said Accounts, which were respectively read, and are as follow, *viz.*

rent with the Province of <i>New-Jersey</i> ,			CR.
	By Bond of <i>Stephen Skinner</i> for Deficiency,	-	£. 5334 : 12 : 10
	By fundry Vouchers produced, endorsed and allowed,	-	4374 : 15 : 6
	By Balance of Sinking Fund,	-	7556 : 14 : 9
1776, July 13.	By Cash paid Messieurs <i>Mebelm</i> and Sergeant, a Committee appointed by the Provincial Congress, as by Receipt,	4944 : 19 : 6	
24.	By ditto, as by Receipt,	436 : 10 : 0	
30.	By ditto <i>Elmer</i> , as by Receipt,	719 : 12 : 6	
		<hr/>	6101 : 2 : 0
	By ditto in Treasury Chest as by Mr. <i>Stevens's</i> Receipt of July 1, 1776,	-	933 : 12 : 6
	By Amount of private Account,	-	68 : 11 : 1
		<hr/>	24369 : 8 : 8
	By Balance due,	-	807 : 17 : 5
		<hr/>	£. 25177 : 6 : 1

Princeton, September 28, 1776.

John Smyth, Treasurer.

HAVING examined the foregoing Accounts and the Vouchers thereto, do find a Balance due to the State of *New-Jersey*, of Eight Hundred and Seven Pounds Seventeen Shillings and Five-pence.

Errors excepted.

DR.

Province of *New-Jersey*,

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

To Balance brought from Account for Support of Government, £. 2799 : 9 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
 Balance due to the Province carried below, - - 6195 : 13 : 9

£. 8995 : 3 : 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

To my Salary as Treasurer, from *June 1* to *September 15*, } £. 11 : 13 : 4
 at £. 40 per Annum, - }
 To signing £. 41556 : 15 : 0 of the Loan-Office Money, - 26 : 13 : 4
 To exchanging £. 435 : 18 : 10, at *Six-pence* per Pound, - 10 : 17 : 11

Balance due to the Publick, - - 49 : 4 : 7
 6146 : 9 : 2

£. 6195 : 13 : 9

DR.

SAMUEL TUCKER, Treasurer, in Ac—

1776.
Sept. 18. To Balance in my Hands, - - £. 7571 : 16 : 9

to JOSEPH SMITH,

CR.

By Balance of Account of Money struck for exchanging ragged and torn Bills,	}	£. 6520 : 2 : 0
By Balance of Sinking Fund Account,	-	2475 : 1 : 2½
		<u>£. 8995 : 3 : 2½</u>

Balance brought from above, - - - £. 6195 : 13 : 9
Errors excepted, September 19, 1776.

JOSEPH SMITH.

Princeton, September 19, 1776.

HAVING examined the foregoing Accounts and the Vouchers thereto, do find a Balance due from *Joseph Smith* to the State of *New-Jersey* of *Six Thousand One Hundred and Forty-six Pounds Nine Shillings and Two-pence*.

JOHN FELL,
JOHN COMES.

count with the State of *New-Jersey*,

CR.

1776.			
Sept. 18.	By Cash paid <i>John Mchelm</i> , Esq.		£. 17 : 14 : 0
	Ditto paid <i>Peter Tallman</i> , Esq.	-	1 : 16 : 0
	Ditto paid <i>Thomas Hendry</i> , Bounty,	-	7 : 8 : 0
			<u>26 : 18 : 0</u>
	Balance,	-	7544 : 18 : 9
			<u>£. 7571 : 16 : 9</u>
	Errors excepted,		

18th September, 1776.

SAMUEL TUCKER, Treasurer.

Princeton, September 18, 1776.

HAVING examined the foregoing Accounts and Vouchers thereto, do find a Balance of *Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-four Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Nine-pence*, due from *Samuel Tucker* to the State of *New-Jersey*.

JOHN FELL,
JOHN COMES.

N. B. There yet remains in the Hands of *John Hart* and *Samuel How*, Esquires, two of the Signers, or one of them, £. 115 : 14 : 6, to make up the Western Share of the £. 50,000 : 5, being £. 25,000 : 2 : 6.

H

DR.

DR.

JOHN DENNIS, Treasurer, in Ac—

1776.
 Sept. 18. To Sundries from the other Side, - - £. 5455 : 8 : 9

Resolved,

That *John Smyth*, Esq. one of the late Treasurers of this State, do pay the Sum of *Eight Hundred and Seven Pounds Seventeen Shillings and Five-pence*, belonging to this State, and now in his Hands, into the Hands of the Honourable *Richard Smith*, Esq. the present Treasurer ; and that the said Treasurer do give the said *John Smyth*, Esq. a Receipt for the same ; and the said *Richard Smith* be accountable to the Legislature of this State for the said Sum.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Council-Chamber, Sept. 28, 1776.

IT appearing to the House that the Honourable the Continental Congress have appointed a Committee, consisting of one Delegate from each State, to employ proper Persons to purchase, in their respective States, a sufficient Number of Blankets and Woollens fit for Soldiers Cloaths ; and that they take the most effectual and speedy Methods for getting such Woollens made up and distributed among the regular Continental Army, in such Proportion as will best promote the publick Service ; and that they also purchase all other necessary Cloathing for the Soldiers in such Proportions as they judge, upon the best Information, will be wanted ; and that said Committee be authorised to draw on the President of the Congress for the Sums necessary to execute this Business, they to be accountable for the Amount of their Draughts and Disbursements : And it also appearing to the House that the said Committee of Congress met on the 26th Instant, and agreed that the Resolution should be laid before the Assembly or Convention of each State, and that they be recommended to appoint the proper Persons and fix the Places where the several Articles purchased shall be sent, that they may from thence be transmitted to the Army in their proper Proportions.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sinnickson*, Mr. *Elmer*, and Mr. *Smith*, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the House of Assembly in a Conference on the Matters recommended to them by the Honourable the Continental Congress.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Scudder* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith, and desire them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose, to meet at the House of *William Whitehead*, at six o'Clock this Evening.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Zabriskie*, Mr. *Bowen*, Mr. *Cook*, and Mr. *Wetherby*, be a Committee to meet with the Committee of the Council in a Conference on the Resolve of Congress respecting the providing Cloathing, &c. in this State, for the Continental Army.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The

count with the State of *New-Jersey*,

CR.

1776.

Sept. 18. By the Amount of Monies disbursed, as appeared by sundry

Vouchers examined and approved,

By Balance due from *John Dennis* to the State of *New-Jersey*,

£. 2752 : 8 : 2

2703 : 0 : 7

£. 5455 : 8 : 9

Princeton, September 18, 1776.

HAVING examined the foregoing Accounts and the Vouchers thereto, do find a Balance of *Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Three Pounds and Seven-pence*, due from *John Dennis*, Esq. Treasurer, to the State of *New-Jersey*.

JOHN FELL,
JOHN COMBS.

The House met,

And the Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till *Monday* Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, September 30, 1776.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed to Business, adjourned till Two, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Draught of Instructions to the Commissioners for inquiring into the State of the Battalions, &c. was read the second Time, to which the House agreed, and are as follow :

WHEREAS the Honourable Congress hath resolved that eighty-eight Battalions be enlisted as soon as possible to serve during the present War, and have recommended to this State to raise four Battalions, being their Quota of said Troops ; the Legislature of this State, thinking it highly proper to comply with the Request of Congress, hath come to the following Resolutions :

1. That they will raise, as speedily as possible, four Battalions to serve during the present War, on the Terms in the Resolve of Congress specified.

2. That, in order thereto, it will be proper to take the three first raised Battalions in this State, and now in Service to the northward of *Albany*, into the Establishment, or such Parts thereof as are willing to engage in the Service, reserving to the Legislature the Power of re-appointing the Officers, as the two Houses shall think proper on a due Consideration of their Merits, and having Regard to their former Rank, at the End of the respective Times of their former Service.

3. That as to the fourth Battalion, and the supplying such Deficiencies as may happen in the three Battalions before mentioned, it will be proper to give Preference both as to Officers and Soldiers to the five Battalions now under the Command of General *Heard* ; the Officers to be elected out of such of them as shall apply, or shall otherwise signify their Willingness to engage in the Service ; and the Soldiers to be enlisted by the Officers so appointed, so as not to interfere with their present Enlistment, without the Consent of the Commander in Chief of the Army.

4. That it will be proper to send one or more Commissioners with Instructions, to inquire into the State of the Battalions raised in this State, and now in Service, and their Disposition to engage farther in the Service on the new Establishment.

In

In Conformity to which Resolves you, Gentlemen, are appointed Commissioners for the Purposes above-mentioned : You are therefore to repair with all convenient Speed to the Stations of the aforefaid Battalions ; and proceed, by the moſt prudent and effectual Means, to execute the Intent of your Commiſſion, by procuring Returns of the Battalions raiſed in this State, with the Condition of their Cloathing, Arms and Accoutrements ; and inquiring of the General and Field-Officers, under whom they have ſerved, the reſpective military Abilities and Services of the Captains and Subalterns who may ſignify their Willingneſs to ſerve during the preſent War ; and likewise the Number of able-bodied non-commiſſioned Officers and Soldiers willing to engage in the Service upon the Terms held out by the Honourable Congreſs.

We need not ſuggeſt to you the Neceſſity of uſing the greateſt Delicacy in becoming acquainted with ſuch well authenticated Facts and Anecdotes as may throw Light on the military Character and Abilities of ſuch Field and other Officers as may expect to be employed in the Service of this State : But as it is of the laſt Conſequence that none be employed in ſuch important Offices, who have not manifested a Zeal for the common Cauſe, and a Capacity for, and Improvement in military Knowledge in Proportion to their Opportunities ; you will not neglect any probable Means which may lead to the neceſſary Diſcovery.

And as the Nature of the Service requires that ſuch Officers, whoſe preſent Engagements are nearly expired, ſhould be immediately empowered to enliſt Men in their reſpective Battalions ; you may therefore aſſure ſuch Captains and Subalterns in the three firſt Battalions, as may be willing to engage in the Service on the new Eſta bliſhment, (if on the beſt Information you think they merit the Appointment) that on making Return of their Companies, when filled, they ſhall be commiſſioned.

But as the Circumſtances of the Battalions are various, and many unknown to the Legiſlature, it is impoſſible to point out the particular Line of your Conduct ; we therefore ſubmit to your Diſcretion the taking ſuch other Steps as by you ſhall be deemed expedient for accompliſhing the great End of your Journey, recommending to you to take Notes of all ſuch Incidents and Information, in the Execution of your Commiſſion, as you ſhall think proper to be laid before the Legiſlature.

By Order of the Committees,

Princeton, September 28, 1776.

SILAS CONDUCT,
SAMUEL DICK.

The Houſe adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, October 1, 1776.

The Houſe met.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to join the Committee of the Council on Ways and Means to provide the Army with Cloathing, &c. made the following Report, which was read and agreed to, and is as follows, *viz.*

YOUR Committee, appointed to confer with a Committee of the Council on the Reſolve of Congreſs reſpecting the providing Cloathing, &c. in this State for the Continental Army, beg Leave to report, That it appears to the Conferees that it will be proper to appoint the Representatives in Council and Aſſembly of this State Commiſſioners in their reſpective Counties for the Purpoſes mentioned in the Reſolve of Congreſs : And it is the Opinion of the Conferees that the Sum of *Thirty Thouſand Dollars* is neceſſary in this State for executing the Purpoſe

pose of said Resolve ; and that the Committee mentioned in said Resolve be requested, through the Honourable *Richard Stockton*, Esq. to draw on the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. for said Sum.

The Conferees recommend further, *William C. Houston* and *Jonathan Baldwin*, as proper Persons to be employed in transacting said Business at *Philadelphia*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Buck* and Mr. *Manning* do inform the Council that this House have nominated *William Churchill Houston* and *Jonathan Baldwin*, to proceed to *Philadelphia*, and receive of the Honourable the Congress the Sum of 30,000 Dollars for purchasing Cloathing, &c. in this State, whose Expences are to be borne by this State ; and that this House do desire the Council to concur in the said Nomination.

Mr. *Buck* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 1, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly that this House concurs in the Nomination of Mr. *Houston* and Mr. *Baldwin*, agreeable to their Message of this Morning.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Smith*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 1, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Smith* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to confirm and establish the several Courts of Justice within this State*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for Support of Government ; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. *Speaker* resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and had come to several Resolutions, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same ;

Ordered,

That the Report be made To-morrow Morning.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to confirm and establish the several Courts of Justice within this State* ; was read the second Time ;

Ordered,

That the same have a third Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, October 2, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to confirm and establish the several Courts of Justice within this State*, was read the third Time ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mac Ewen* and Mr. *Vandike* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that it has passed this House.

Mr. *Mac Ewen* reported, that Mr. *Vandike* and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the President in Council.

Resolved,

That the Treasurer of this State pay out of the publick Money to the Honourable *John Cleves Symmes*, and *Theunis Dey*, Esquires, Commissioners appointed to go to the northern Army, or either of them, the Sum of *Sixty Pounds* to defray their Expences; and that their Receipt, or the Receipt of either of them, be a sufficient Discharge to the said Treasurer; and that the said *John Cleves Symmes* and *Theunis Dey* do account to the Legislature for the Expenditure of the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Hathorne* do carry the said Resolution to the Council, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Hathorne* and himself delivered the Message to them entrusted to the President in Council.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Inspection of Gun-Powder*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 2, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly that this House doth concur with them in the Resolution of this Morning respecting the Sum of *Sixty Pounds* to be advanced to the Honourable *John Cleves Symmes* and *Theunis Dey*, Esquires.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Mac Ewen* and Mr. *Garritse*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to ascertain the Fees to be taken for Commissions to be issued to civil and military Officers, &c.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 2, 1776.

THAT Colonel *Symmes* do carry to the House of Assembly the Bill, entitled, *An Act for establishing a Court of Admiralty and Custom-Houses within the State of New-Jersey*.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for establishing a Court of Admiralty and Custom-Houses within the State of New-Jersey*; was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Combs*, according to order, reported the Resolutions of the Committee on the Bill for Support of Government as follows:

1. *Resolved,*

That in and by the said Bill, when passed into a Law, there be paid to His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esq. Governor of this State, at the Rate of £. 500 per Annum; and, on the Question, Whether the House agrees thereto or not? passed in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. Board,	Mr. Coxé,	Mr. Zabriskie,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Bassét,	Mr. Mac Ewen,
Mr. Garritse,	Mr. Wetherby,	Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Bowen,	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Buck,	Mr. Hathorne,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Vandike,	who voted for £. 300.
Mr. Woodhull,	Mr. Dick,	
Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Tallman.	
Mr. Peterson,		

To which the House agreed.

2. To *John De Hart*, Esq. Chief-Justice of this State, at the Rate of £. 200 per Annum; and, on the Question, Whether the House agrees thereto? It was carried as follows:

For £. 200.	For £. 150.	For £. 150.
Mr. Zabriskie,	Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Board,	Mr. Bassét,	Mr. Woodhull,
Mr. Garritse,	Mr. Wetherby,	Mr. Mac Ewen,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Bowen,	Mr. Vandike,
Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Buck,	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Hathorne,	Mr. Holmes.
Mr. Coxé,	Mr. Camp,	
Mr. Dick.	Mr. Combs,	

Carried for £. 150; to which the House agreed.

3. To *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. second Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, at the Rate of £. 100 per Annum; and, on the Question, it passed as follows:

For £. 100.	For £. 100.	Mr. Zabriskie, voted for £. 150
Mr. Board,	Mr. Woodhull,	Mr. Dick, for 150
Mr. Garritse,	Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Buck, for 140
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Mott,	Mr. Coxé, for 125
Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Mac Ewen, for 125
Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Bassét,	Mr. Bowen, for 125
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Wetherby,	Mr. Hathorne, for 125
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Holmes.	
Mr. Cook,		

Carried for £. 100; to which the House agreed.

4. To *Francis Hopkinson*, Esq. Third Justice of the Supreme Court, at the Rate of £. 100 per Annum; and, on the Question, it passed as follows:

For £. 100.	For £. 100.	Mr. Dick, voted for £. 150
Mr. Board,	Mr. Mac Ewen,	Mr. Zabriskie, for 125
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Coxé, for 125
Mr. Garritse,	Mr. Holmes,	Mr. Buck, for 130
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Mott,	
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Tallman,	
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Bassét,	
Mr. Woodhull,	Mr. Wetherby,	
Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Bowen,	
Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Hathorne.	

Carried for £. 100; to which the House agreed.

5. To *William Paterson*, Esq. Attorney-General, at the Rate of *Twenty Pounds* per Annum; and, on the Question, it passed as follows:

For £. 20.	For £. 20.	For £. 10.	For nothing.
Mr. Zabriskie,	Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Garritse.	Mr. Peterfon,
Mr. Board,	Mr. Mac Ewen,		Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Vandike,		Mr. Mott,
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Cox,		Mr. Tallman,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Wetherby,		Mr. Dick,
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Bowen,		Mr. Bassett,
Mr. Woodbull,	Mr. Halborne.		Mr. Buck.

Carried for £. 20 ; to which the House agreed.

6. To *Richard Smith*, Esq. Treasurer, at the Rate of £. 40 per Annum ; and, on the Question, the House agreed thereto, except Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Mott*, who voted for no Salary.

7. To the Clerk of the Circuits at the Rate of £. 20 per Annum ; to which the House agreed.

8. To the Clerk of the Council the Sum of *Ten Shillings* per Diem ; to which the House agreed.

9. To the Doorkeeper of the Council the Sum of *Four Shillings* per Diem, for the Time he shall attend ; to which the House agreed.

10. To any of the Justices of the Supreme Court for holding Circuit Courts and Courts of Oyer and Terminer, &c. the Sum of *Ten Pounds* for each Time they shall attend during the Continuance of this Act ; to which the House agreed.

11. To each of the Members of the Council for the Time they shall attend at this or any Sitting of Assembly, the Sum of *Eight Shillings* per Diem ; to which the House agreed.

12. To each of the Delegates in Congress, the Sum of *Twenty Shillings* per Diem for their Attendance, &c. to which the House agreed.

13. To *Jonathan Deare*, Esq. Clerk of the House of Representatives, or any other Clerk for his Attendance, the Sum of *Ten Shillings* per Diem ; and also the Sum of *Four-pence* per Sheet, reckoning ninety Words to the Sheet, for entering the Minutes fair in the Journal, and copying the Laws and Minutes for the Printer ; to which the House agreed.

14. To *Isaac Collins*, or any other Printer, for printing the Laws and Minutes, such Sum as *John Hart*, *Robert Friend Price*, *Peter Tallman* and *Joseph Holmes*, Esquires, or any two of them, shall agree to be paid for the same ; to which the House agreed.

15. To the Sergeant at Arms for the Time being, who shall attend the House of Representatives, the Sum of *Three Shillings* per Diem ; and to the Doorkeeper of the House who shall attend the same, the Sum of *Four Shillings* per Diem ; to which the House agreed.

16. To the Speaker and every of the Members of the House of Representatives for the Time they may attend at any Sitting during the Continuance of said Act, the Sum of *Eight Shillings* per Diem ; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, October 3, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for establishing a Court of Admiralty and Custom-Houses within*

within the State of New-Jersey, was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. Coxe, Mr. Mott and Mr. Combs.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage William Parker and others, to erect Salt-Works in the State of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time; on the Question,
Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House having gone through the Bill for Support of Government, the same was read, and committed to Mr. Coxe and Mr. Tallman.

The Joint-Committee, appointed by both Houses to prepare a Great Seal, beg Leave to report :

THAT they have considered the Subject, and taken the Sentiments of several Gentlemen thereon, and are of Opinion that *Francis Hopkinson, Esq.* should be immediately engaged to employ proper Persons at *Philadelphia* to prepare a Silver Seal, which is to be round, of two and a half Inches Diameter, and three-eighths of an Inch thick; and that the Arms shall be three Ploughs in an Escutcheon, the Supporters Liberty and Ceres, and the Crest a Horse's Head; these Words to be engraved in large Letters round the Arms, viz. *The Great Seal of the State of New-Jersey.*

By Order of the Committees,

RICHARD SMITH, Chairman.

The above Report being read,

Resolved,

That the Joint-Committee aforesaid do engage *Francis Hopkinson, Esq.* accordingly; and that he be authorized to draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Expence of the Great Seal.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Woodhull* and Mr. *Tallman* do acquaint the Council therewith, and desire their Concurrence.

Mr. *Dick*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee on publick Accounts, reported the Account of *Caleb Camp, Esq.* with this State, as follows :

Dr. Mr. CALEB CAMP, in Account current with the State of New-Jersey,		Cr.
1776. To Cash received from } <i>John Dennis, Esq.</i> }	£. 502 : 0 : 0	By the Amount of his Account for Cannon, Carriages, Fire Arms, Shot, Lead, intrench- ing Tools, &c. &c. £. 576 : 7 : 2
To do. received from do.	60 : 0 : 0	
	£. 562 : 0 : 0	
Balance due to Mr. Camp,	14 : 7 : 2	
	£. 576 : 7 : 2	

THE Committee appointed to settle publick Accounts having examined the above Account, and the Vouchers relative thereto, do allow the same, and find a Balance of *Fourteen Pounds Seven Shillings and Two-pence* due to Mr. *Caleb Camp.*

October 3, 1776.

CHARLES COXE,
SAMUEL DICK,
EDMUND WETHERBY.

Four separate Petitions from *Edward Lewis*, *Edward Lewis, jun.* *John Leake*, and *William Williamson*, insolvent Debtors in the County of *Somerſet*, praying Relief ; were read, and ordered a ſecond Reading.

Mr. *Woodhull* reported, that Mr. *Tallman* and himſelf delivered the Meſſage with them entrusted to the Preſident in Council.

A Meſſage from the Council by Mr. *Sinnickſon*.

Council-Chamber, Oct. 3, 1776.

THE Meſſage from the Houſe of Aſſembly containing a Reſolution that the Joint-Committee do engage *Francis Hopkinſon*, Eſq. to procure a Great Seal, and that he be authorized to draw on the Treafurer of this State for the Expence thereof, having been read and conſidered,

Reſolved,

That this Houſe do concur in the ſaid Reſolution.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sinnickſon* acquaint the Houſe of Aſſembly therewith.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to oblige the Treafurer of the State of New-Jerſey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, &c.* was read the ſecond Time ; on the Queſtion,

Ordered,

That the ſame be engroſſed.

The Engroſſed Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Inſpection of Gun-Powder*, was read and compared ; on the Queſtion,

Reſolved,

That the ſame do paſs.

The Engroſſed Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage William Parker and others to erect Salt-Works, &c.* was read and compared ; on the Queſtion,

Reſolved,

That the ſame do paſs.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Zabriſkie* and Mr. *Garritſe* do carry the ſaid Bills to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Zabriſkie* reported that Mr. *Garritſe* and himſelf delivered the Bills to them entrusted to the Preſident in Council.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, was read the ſecond Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole Houſe ; whereupon the Houſe accordingly reſolved itſelf into a Committee of the whole Houſe on the ſaid Bill ; and, after ſome Time ſpent therein, Mr. Speaker reſumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made ſome Progreſs in the Matters to them referred, and deſired Leave to ſit again ; to which the Houſe agreed.

The Houſe adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, October 4, 1776.

The Houſe met.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpoſe, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to aſcertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commiſſions granted to Judges, Juſtices, military and other Officers in the State of New-Jerſey* ; which was read, and ordered a ſecond Reading.

A Meſſage

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 4, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Condict* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House again, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*, was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage William Parker and others to erect Salt-Works*, &c. being returned to this House with several Amendments made thereto by the Council, the same, with the Amendments in their Places, were read; on the Question, Whether this House agree to said Amendments? It passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That the said Bill and Amendments be re-engrossed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*, was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Manning* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that the same is passed by this House.

Mr. *Dick* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 4, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Fell* do acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Inspection of Gun-Powder*, is passed by the Council without any Amendments.

The House again, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, October 5, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act for establishing Courts of Admiralty and Custom-Houses*, &c. having reported the

the same with one Amendment, the said Bill, with the Amendment in it's Place, was read and agreed to by the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Hathorne* do carry the same to the Council and desire their Concurrence therein.

The Re-engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage William Parker and others to erect Salt-Works, &c.* being read and compared ;

Ordered,

That the Speaker sign the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Hathorne* do carry the same to the Council.

Mr. *Manning* reported, that Mr. *Hathorne* and himself delivered the Bills with them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, in the following Words :

Gentlemen,

AS the Term for which our Militia were ordered to join the Flying Camp will expire next Week ; and while the Enemy is in Possession of *Staten-Island*, there appears to be the same Necessity for our Troops to occupy the proper Stations for preventing their Incursions into this State, which there was when they were first called out, I beg Leave to recommend this Matter to your serious Consideration.—Should any of the Militia remain at *Elizabeth-Town* Point during the Winter, it seems to be absolutely necessary that Barracks should be immediately built for that Purpose, as the Season is fast approaching in which the Men cannot be screened from the Inclemency of the Weather by Tents.

Princeton, October 5, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Cook* do wait on His Excellency and desire to know when and where he will please to be waited on with the Address of this House.

Mr. *Coxe* reported, that Mr. *Cook* and himself had waited on His Excellency according to Order, who was pleased to say the House should hear from him in a few Minutes.

A Message from His Excellency by the Secretary, informing the House that His Excellency was in the Council-Chamber ready to receive the Address of the House ; whereupon Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and with the House went to wait on His Excellency ; and being returned, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and reported, that the House had waited on His Excellency, and delivered the Address in the following Words :

To His Excellency WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esquire, Governor, Captain-General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New-Jersey, and Territories thereunto belonging, Chancellor and Ordinary in the same ;

The ADDRESS of the ASSEMBLY of the State of *New-Jersey*.

May it please your Excellency,

WHILST we anticipate the Blessings of a Government founded on Freedom, having for its sole Object the Happiness of the People, it affords the most pleasing Reflection that all our Measures for attaining that great End, are strongly marked with Deliberation and Firmness, and will bear the strictest Scrutiny of Reason

Reason and Conscience. To those disposed to trace the Hand of approving Heaven in our Deliverance from the galling Yoke of Slavery, the unparalleled Unanimity of the *American* States in resisting the Encroachments of Despotism, and refusing the insidious Offers of precarious Peace—the Rejection of our Petitions, though fraught with unrefuted Reasoning and clear Demonstration, joined to the insatuated Policy of our Enemy, and the Success of our Arms, afford the most unequivocal Marks of Providential Agency; whilst our Willingness even to relinquish some of our indubitable Rights for the Sake of Peace—our Patience under repeated Insults and Injuries—the Declaration of our Rights, and consequent Independence, long delayed—plainly evince to the impartial World our Aversion to shedding Human Blood. But, compelled by the insatiate Plunderers of the East to assert our Freedom, we have burst the Bands of political Slavery, and arose into a Life of Liberty. Thus situate, we cannot evince more fully to the World the Purity of our Intentions, and our Sense of the Value of our Purchase, than by placing, in the most conspicuous Point of View, those Gentlemen who have taken an early and decisive Part in our glorious Struggle for Freedom.

Our Conviction of the Rectitude of your Excellency's Intentions stands confessed, by your Appointment to the Office of Chief Magistrate of this free State. But whilst we feel our own Inadequacy to the Business assigned us by our Country, we must acknowledge with your Excellency, that your Task is arduous indeed! and entreat you to look up with us, to the indulgent Parent of the Universe, who, when the End proposed is stamped with his Approbation, can make the Abilities keep pace with the Will.

Convinced with your Excellency of the Necessity of a well-regulated Militia for the Defence of a free State, and of their being duly paid for their Service, our earliest Attention shall be given to that most important Business; and permit us, Sir, to assure you, that, whilst we have aught to bellow, the Voice of murmuring for Services unpaid, or Merit unrewarded, shall not be heard in this State.

If, in fixing the Seat of Government according to the local Circumstances and Convenience of the various Parts of this State, we should appoint a Place agreeable to your Excellency, it will double our Satisfaction. The Law mentioned, and such other salutary Regulations as may occur to your Excellency during this Session, when communicated to us, shall meet with all due Attention.

Your obliging Mention of the Importance of the Station in which the uncorrupted Voice of our Constituents hath placed us, demands our Acknowledgments, and will, we hope, spirit us to such Exertions in our Duty, as may redound to the Benefit of the State: And we assure you, with Sincerity, that, laying aside all private Attachments and Resentment, it shall be our Study, to cultivate that Harmony between the Branches of the Legislature, that Spirit of Oeconomy, Industry and Patriotism, so justly recommended, and so essential to the publick Welfare; and that whilst our Heaven-directed Generals and Soldiers, with an ardour peculiar to Freemen, brave the Dangers of well-fought Fields, against the lawless Sons of Rapine and Plunder, ours shall be the important Task, in Conjunction with your Excellency and the Honourable Council, to give our cool Deliberations and useful Resolves, the most unambiguous Marks of that Spirit which ought to animate a Senate of Freemen.

We hope that no Situation in Life can make us lose Sight of that evident Truth, so loudly proclaimed in the historic Page, that dissoluteness of Manners and political Corruption are inseparable Companions in the Destruction of Kingdoms; whilst the concurring Testimony of the inspired Penman will enforce on the most obdurate Heart, that *Righteousness exalteth a Nation, but that Sin is a Reproach to any People*. Determined to employ the Talents given in procuring, and transmitting inviolate to Posterity, the fair Inheritance of civil and religious Liberty,

though bought at the Price of Life, we will look, for the Permanency and Stability of our new Government, to Him who bringeth Princes to nothing, and teacheth Senators Wisdom.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
October 5, 1776.

By Order of the House,

JOHN HART, *Speaker*.

To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following Answer :

Gentlemen,

YOUR kind and affectionate Address deserves my cordial Thanks ; and I feel myself most agreeably affected with your obliging Assurances of paying all due Attention to the Laws and Regulations recommended to your Consideration.

I heartily participate with you in the Pleasure of tracing that conspicuous Providential Agency which has hitherto frustrated the sanguinary Purposes of our Enemies ; and which, that it is not more generally and devoutly acknowledged, is greatly to be deplored. But while with pious Gratitude we survey the frequent Interpositions of Heaven in our Behalf, we ought to remember, that as the Disbelief of an over-ruling Providence is Atheism ; so an absolute Confidence of having our Deliverance wrought out by the immediate Hand of God, without our own Exertions, is the most culpable Presumption. Let us therefore inflexibly persevere in exerting our most strenuous Efforts, in an humble and rational Dependance on the great Governor of the World ; we have the fairest Prospect of surmounting all our Difficulties ; and of seeing our merciless Oppressors involved in that Destruction which they have so long been meditating for others.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 5, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* do carry the Bill re-engrossed, with the Amendment made by the House of Assembly, entitled, *An Act for establishing a Court of Admiralty, &c.* to the House of Assembly.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill for Support of Government, &c. having been taken into Consideration, and several Amendments made thereto in the House ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, October 7, 1776.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till Two, P. M.

The House met.

The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. President of the Continental Congress, and a Resolve of Congress recommending that proper Persons be appointed to examine those who offer to serve as Surgeons or Surgeons Mates in the Army and Navy, &c. and requesting that Measures be taken to cause, as speedily as possible, a full Representation of this State in Congress ; which Letter and Resolve were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commissions, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, October 8, 1776.

The House met,

And the Speaker being absent, adjourned till Two, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. Speaker being necessarily absent, the House could not proceed on Business, or adjourn without choosing a Speaker, the House therefore proceeded to the Choice of a Speaker *pro Tempore*, during the Absence of the Speaker, when *John Combs*, Esq. was chosen for that Purpose, and took the Chair.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows:

Gentlemen,

FROM the many Advantages that will redound to the Service in general, as well as to this State in particular (too obvious to be mentioned) from appointing the necessary Officers for raising at least two of the four Battalions requested of this State by the Honourable the Congress, before the Return of your Commissioners; I beg Leave earnestly to recommend to you, to set on foot the raising those Levies without any Loss of Time.

Princeton, Oct. 8, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey, to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, &c.* was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commissions to civil and military Officers, &c.* was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Holmes* do carry the said Bills to the Council for their Concurrence.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Support of Government, &c.* was read and compared; and, on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Negative.

Mr. *Wetherby* reported, that Mr. *Holmes* and himself delivered the Bills to them entrusted to the President in Council.

The House withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c. after some Time they returned, and the Speaker took the Chair.

On Motion,

Resolved,

That *Richard Smith*, Esq. Treasurer of this State, do pay to each of the Members of the Council and Assembly for their Attendance at this Sitting of Assembly

sembly at *Princeton*, *Eight Shillings* per Day, for as many Days as the President or Vice-President of the Council, the Speaker, or any three Members of the Assembly, shall sign a Certificate for, certifying the Number of Days such Members have attended ; and also to the Clerks of the Council and Assembly, *Ten Shillings* per Day for their Attendance this Sitting, for so many Days as the President of the Council, or Speaker of the Assembly, shall certify such Clerks have attended ; and also to the Sergeant at Arms, *Three Shillings* per Day, and to the Doorkeepers of the Council and Assembly each *Four Shillings* per Day, for so many Days as the President or Vice-President of the Council, or Speaker of the Assembly, do certify they have attended.

And Resolved also,

That the said *Richard Smith* do pay the Certificates of the late Members of Convention ; and also that he pay to Messieurs *William Churchill Houston* and *Jonathan Baldwin*, *Six Pounds* for their Trouble and Expences in bringing the Money from the Continental Congress at *Philadelphia*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Cook* and Mr. *Bowen* do wait on the Council with this Resolution, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Mr. *Cook* reported, that Mr. *Bowen* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The House adjourned to meet at *Burlington* on *Wednesday* the thirteenth of *November* next.

BURLINGTON, Wednesday, November 13, 1776.

The House met pursuant to Adjournment,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, November 14, 1776.

The House met,

And, for Want of a sufficient Number of Members, adjourned till Two, P. M.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, November 15, 1776.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members, adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met,

And, there not yet being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, November 16, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. with sundry Resolutions of the Continental Congress therein enclosed ; which were read, and ordered to be referred to the Joint-Meeting.

The

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dey* and Mr. *Covenhoven* be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to provide Ways and Means to send the Shoes and Stockings, and such other Articles as are in Readiness to be sent, to the northern Army, agreeable to the Request in a Letter from the Honourable *Richard Stockton*, Esq. one of the Delegates of the Continental Congress; and that Mr. *Buck* do acquaint the Council therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Buck* reported, that he had delivered the Message with him entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Nov. 16, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Smith* be a Committee to join the Committee of the House of Assembly to provide Ways and Means to send the Shoes and Stockings, and such other Articles as are in Readiness to be sent, to the northern Army; that the said Committees meet for that Purpose at the House of *Joseph Haight* at Nine o'Clock To-morrow Morning; and that Mr. *Fell* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, November 18, 1776.

The House met.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Tallman*, be a Committee to bring in a Supplementary Act to the Act, entitled, *An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons.*

Ordered,

That all Persons having any publick Accounts unsettled with this State, do bring in the same in the second Week of the next Sitting of Assembly, in order that the same may be settled; and that the Members do publish this Order in their respective Counties.

A Petition was presented from *Edward Haswell*, setting forth, that he is a great Sufferer by having a Quantity of Hay and Corn destroyed by the Troops quartered in *Amboy*, and praying Relief, &c. which was read, and ordered to be read a second Time.

A Petition was presented from Captain *Job Shepherd*, of Colonel *Charles Read's* Battalion, in *Burlington County*, setting forth, that his Company have been out in Service and not received their full Pay and Rations, and praying Relief, which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting of both Houses.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

M

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

THE Council having resolved that the several Clerks of the Counties in this State, do immediately call upon and tender to every Judge and Justice of the Peace in their respective Counties, not already qualified, the Oaths of Abjuration and Allegiance, and Oath of Office, and make Return without Delay to the Governor, as well of the Names of those who will, as of those who will not qualify. I think it necessary to recommend it to the House previously to make Provision for paying the said Clerks for the above Service.

Burlington, Nov. 18, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend the Joint-Meeting, &c. And

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, November 19, 1776.

The House met.

The Petition from *James Drake* and *John Voorhees*, Ferrymen at *New-Brunswick*, respecting the Ferriage, &c. preferred at the last Sitting, was read the second Time; and, after some Debate thereon, and the Question being put,

Ordered,

That the said Petition do lie on the Table.

The Speaker laid before the House the Bond given by *Richard Smith*, Esquire, Treasurer of this State, with Securities in the Sum of £.20,000 for the due Execution of his Office; which Bond having been read and taken into Consideration by this House, the House do approve of the said Bond and Securities;

Ordered,

That *Mr. Mott* and *Mr. Bowen* do carry the said Bond to the Council for their Concurrence.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Tallman*, *Mr. Harris* and *Mr. Camp*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to appoint proper Persons to examine those who offer to serve as Surgeons or Surgeons Mates in the Army and Navy, agreeable to the Request of Congress.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. Mott reported, that *Mr. Bowen* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to *Mr. Scudder*, one of the Members of the Council, the Council not sitting.

Resolved,

That *Levi Murrel* be Sergeant at Arms to this House during the present Sitting.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, November 20, 1776.

The House met.

His Excellency the Governor's Message of *Monday* last, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That *Mr. Mehelm*, *Mr. Woodhull* and *Mr. Manning*, be a Committee to prepare an Answer to the said Message.

The

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. *Mehelm*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Draught of a Message to His Excellency, in answer to his Message of *Monday* last; which was read, and ordered to be engrossed.

The Engrossed Message to His Excellency was read and compared, and is as follows:

Ordered,

THAT Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Wetherby* do wait on His Excellency and inform him, that the House have taken into their Consideration His Excellency's Message of the 18th Instant; and, in answer thereto, beg Leave to observe, that if those Persons appointed by *Dedimus Potestatem* have neglected giving the Notice required by a Law of this State to those appointed Officers in the several Counties, they are no Doubt accountable for such Neglect; and that the House cannot think it expedient at present, to make Provision for paying the Expence of notifying them, especially as by the best Information we can procure, the principal Objection to qualifying with many is, the Payment of Fees for such Commissions as are not lucrative; which Grievance can be redressed by an Act of the Legislature only.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Paterfon*.

Ordered,

THAT Mr. *Paterfon* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to obviate Doubts with Respect to the Authority of Counsellors*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence;

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, November 21, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. *Tallman*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to appoint proper Persons to examine those who offer to serve as Surgeons or Surgeons Mates in the Army, &c.* agreeable to the Requisition of Congress; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Two Messages from His Excellency by the Secretary as follows:

Gentlemen,

IHAVE to acquaint you that Mr. *Hopkinson*, who was lately appointed one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of this State, has returned me his Commission for that Office, informing me, with Expressions of great Zeal and Respect for this State, that the Honourable the Continental Congress have been pleased to appoint him to an Office which will occasion his Removal from *New-Jersey*.

Burlington, November 21, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Gentlemen,

ADJUTANT *William Bott*, an Officer of great military Skill and real Merit, is at present without any Rank or Pay: I must therefore recommend it to you to give him the Rank, and that he be allowed the Pay of, Colonel, which the Adjutants have usually had. As an Attack upon this State is daily expected, this Matter requires the greater Dispatch, since without Rank he would, should he have the Misfortune to fall into the Enemy's Hands, be treated as a private Soldier.—

Soldier.—Besides my personal Knowledge of his unwearied Zeal and Activity in the Service, I herewith send you a Letter from General *Williamson*, in Proof of his great Use and Importance in our Militia.

Burlington, November 21, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Messages, and also a Letter from General *Williamson*, sent with the last Message, were read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting.

A Petition was presented from *Robert Smith* of *Burlington*, setting forth, that he was appointed by an Act of the late Assembly one of the Signers of the £. 125,000, emitted by said Act to be let out on Loan; that the Commissions allowed to the Signers is inadequate to the Service, &c. and praying a just Allowance for the Services performed; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House again, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Cooper*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Nov. 21, 1776.

THAT Mr. *Cooper* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commissions to civil and military Officers in the State of New-Jersey*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Amendments.

Which Bill, with the Amendments in their Places, was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from sundry Inhabitants of the Township of *Lower-Penn's-Neck*, in the County of *Salem*, praying a Law to empower the said Township to raise a Sum of Money by a Tax, &c. to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge over *Salem Creek* at *Stony-Island*; and that those who do not otherwise contribute to said Bridge may be subject to a Toll, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

THE Resolution of Congress, a Copy of which is hereunto annexed, is but too well founded not to merit the most serious Attention. Through the Credulity and Inattention of some of those who have hitherto been entrusted to grant Passes to Travellers, I have the greatest Reason to believe that many have been very improperly and imprudently granted: I therefore recommend it to your Deliberation, in Conjunction with the Honourable Council of this State, to confer the Authority of granting such Permissions on such Persons only on whose Prudence and

and Circumspection you can rely, and to take the most speedy and effectual Measures to stop all Communication between this State and the Enemy's Quarters, that shall not be directed by proper Authority.

Burlington, Nov. 21, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message, with the Resolution of Congress sent therewith, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, November 22, 1776.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commissions, &c.* with the Amendments made thereto by the Council, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be again read and considered in the Afternoon.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

LIEUTENANT-Colonel *Jecamiah Smith* having resigned his Commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the first Regiment of Foot Militia in the County of *Essex*, whereof *Edward Thomas*, Esq. is Colonel, as incompatible with the Execution of his Office as Sheriff of the said County, to which he hath lately been appointed; I think it my Duty to notify to you his said Resignation; that you may, in Conjunction with the Council, supply the Vacancy by the Election of another Lieutenant-Colonel to the said Regiment, with all convenient Speed.

Burlington, Nov. 22, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message was read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting.

A Petition was presented from *Samuel Miller*, jun. praying an Act of the Legislature to encourage him in erecting a Salt-Works at *Squan* or *Tom's River*, in the County of *Monmouth*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from *Kenneth Anderson*, Esq. Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of *Monmouth*, setting forth, that he had applied to *Joseph Leonard*, late Clerk of said Court, for the Records and Papers belonging to the Clerk's Office, which said *Leonard* had refused to deliver, &c. and praying the House would make some Order therein; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Col. *Dey*, one of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Condition of the Troops raised in this State, and now in Service in the northern Army, made the following Report, which was received by the House, and is as follows:

THE Commissioners appointed by the Honourable Council and General Assembly of the State of *New-Jersey*, to inquire into the Condition of the *Jersey* Troops to the northward of *Albany*, and the Disposition of the Officers to engage in the Continental Service during the War, beg Leave to report:

That your Commissioners having, with all possible Dispatch, repaired to *Ticonderoga*, did there, as far as they were able, inquire into the Condition of the Troops of this State.

Your Commissioners found the Soldiers destitute of many Articles of Dress;
N Supplies

Supplies of every Kind they want ; but Shoes and Stockings they are in the last Necessity for, many having neither to their Feet.

Your Commissioners believe, that the Troops are well provided with Provisions ; and they have Plenty of Arms.

Respecting the Disposition of the Officers to engage in the Service, your Commissioners beg Leave to say, That it is with the greatest Cheerfulness the most of the Officers are ready, on your Appointment, to serve their Country during the War ; a very few declines, as may appear from the Returns of the several Regiments, which your Commissioners beg Leave to lay before you. The Characters of the Officers may be drawn from said Returns, and a few Anecdotes of some of the general Officers, which are at your Command.

Burlington, Nov. 21, 1776.

JOHN CLEVES SYMMES,
THEUNIS DEY.

Mr. *Dey* also laid before the House sundry Letters and Papers ; which were read, and ordered to be referred to the Joint-Meeting.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commissions, &c.* was again read with the Council's Amendments in their Places ; and, on the Question, the House agreed to eight of the Amendments made by the Council, and reject the last Clause or Amendment ;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Covenhoven* and Mr. *Cook* do carry back the said Bill to the Council and acquaint them therewith.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, November 23, 1776.

The House met.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That *John Johnston*, Esq. one of the Signers of the Loan-Office Money, do transmitt the Money yet in his Hands, as soon as the same is signed and numbered, to *Richard Smith*, Esq. the present Treasurer of this State, to be signed by said Treasurer ; and that Mr. *Deare*, Clerk of this House, do give Mr. *Johnston* Notice thereof by Letter.

Resolved,

That this House will make Provision for the necessary Expence of keeping two Horses in Readiness in this Place, during the present Sitting of Assembly, for the Purpose of sending Expresses.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Covenhoven* do wait on the Governor and acquaint him with this Resolution.

The Petition of *Samuel Miller*, jun. praying an Act to encourage him in erecting Salt-Works at *Squan* or *Tom's River*, &c. was read the second Time ;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp*, Mr. *Combs* and Mr. *Price*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for the Purpose mentioned in the Petition.

Mr. *Covenhoven* reported, that Mr. *Cook* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill, for better regulating the Militia ; and, after some Time spent therein,

therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

Mr. *Peterfon*, Mr. *Bogart* and Mr. *Coxe*, have Leave of Absence on particular Business.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Sinnickson*.

Council-Chamber, Nov. 23, 1776.

THE House, having taken into Consideration the Message from the House of Assembly received this Morning, are of Opinion, that it is proper to have a free Conference with the House of Assembly on the subject Matter of the said Message.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell*, Mr. *Cooper*, Mr. *Paterfon* and Mr. *Symmes*, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on the subject Matter of their Message respecting the Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Fees to be taken by the Governor and Secretary on Commissions*, &c. and that the Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sinnickson* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith, and request them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose; and that this House propose that the said Conference be held in the old Meeting-House at three o'Clock this Afternoon.

Which Message having been read and considered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Covenhoven*, Mr. *Woodbull*, Mr. *Mac Ewen*, Mr. *Manning*, Mr. *Cook* and Mr. *Camp*, be a Committee to meet the Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the said Message; and that the Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dey* and Mr. *Drake* do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith.

Mr. *Dey* reported, that Mr. *Drake* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The House adjourned till Monday Ten o'Clock.

Monday, November 25, 1776.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Committee appointed to meet the Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the Bill for ascertaining the Fees to be taken on Commissions, &c. made the following Report, which was read, *viz.*

THE Committee appointed to meet the Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the Council's last Amendment to the Bill for ascertaining the Fees to be taken on Commissions, &c. report, that it was agreed by said Committees that the Secretary be paid a Sum in Gross, *to wit*, *One Hundred Pounds* for issuing Commissions to the Judges, Justices of the Peace, Coroners and Militia Officers

Officers of this State, for one Year, to commence the first Day of *September* last.

By Order of the Committee,

JOHN HART, *Speaker*.

On the Question, Whether the House agrees to said Report or not? It was carried in the Affirmative.

A Message from his Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

I HEREWITH transmit you a Vote of Congress of the 19th Instant, urging the Necessity of pursuing the most immediate and vigorous Measures for furnishing our Quota of Troops for the new Army, and beg your speedy Attention to that important Matter.—Surely, Gentlemen, you will think it necessary to postpone every Thing of less Importance, and devote your Time to this essential Business.

As the Enemy will probably take the Field early in the Spring, it is certainly our Duty to be ready to meet them, and for this Purpose to exert ourselves the approaching Winter to complete our Complement of the Army agreeable to the new Establishment; and as the Time for which the Troops now in Service is so near expiring, it must be obvious that not a Moment should be lost in raising the new Levies, or the Country must be in a defenceless Situation.

Burlington, Nov. 25, 1776.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which, with the Resolve of Congress therein referred to, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, November 26, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower all Constables now in Office to execute the same under the present Government*, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Mebelm*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for the raising of four Battalions*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the raising of four Battalions*, was read a second Time; and, on the Question, ordered to be engrossed.

The

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, November 27, 1776.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for the raising of four Battalions*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the Bill do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Manning and Mr. Mac Erwen do carry the said Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence thereto.

Mr. Manning reported, that Mr. Mac Erwen and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia ; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. Combs, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again ; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower Constables now in Office to execute the same under the present Government*, &c. was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. Manning, Mr. Woodhull and Mr. Bowen.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Fell.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Nov. 27, 1776.

THAT Mr. Fell do acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the raising of four Battalions*, is passed by this House without any Amendments.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, November 28, 1776.

The House met.

Mr. Manning, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower Constables now in Office to execute the same under the present Government, and for appointing others in case of Death*, &c. reported the same with one Amendment, which being read, on the Question,

Ordered,

That the Bill as amended be engrossed.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c. And

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend the Joint-Meeting, &c.

And the House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, November 29, 1776.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower Constables now in Office to execute the same*, &c. was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the Bill do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Woodhull* and Mr. *Newbold* do carry the said Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence thereto.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend the Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, November 30, 1776.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Mary Parent*, praying Leave to go and join her Husband Home, who some Time ago fled to the Enemy, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Woodhull* reported, that Mr. *Newbold* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to appoint proper Persons to examine those who offer to serve as Surgeons or Surgeons Mates in the Army*, &c. was read the second Time; and, on the Question, Whether the Bill be engrossed or not? It passed in the Negative.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Clark*, Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Holmes*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to pardon certain Fugitives from the State of *New-Jersey*.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Ordered,

That the 500 printed Journals of the Proceedings of the late Convention, be distributed in the several Counties as follows:

To <i>Bergen County</i>	33	<i>Hunterdon</i>	68
<i>Effex</i>	37	<i>Burlington</i>	54
<i>Middlesex</i>	43	<i>Gloucester</i>	38
<i>Somerſet,</i>	45	<i>Salem</i>	34
<i>Monmouth</i>	53	<i>Cumberland</i>	19
<i>Morris</i>	36	<i>Cape-May</i>	8
<i>Suffex</i>	29		
To the Clerk of the House for the Use of the House,			3

Resolved,

That the Treasurer do pay to Col. *Richard Somers*, the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds, for the Purpose of enlisting Men into the four Months Service, he to be accountable for the same.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Monday Nine o'Clock.

Monday,

Monday, December 2, 1776.

The House met.

On Motion, and the Question, Whether *Richard Smith*, Esq. the present Treasurer, be allowed the Sum of £. 250, for executing the Office the present Year, in Lieu of the usual Salary and Perquisites, except signing Money; sixteen of the Members voted in the Affirmative.

Resolved,

That *Joseph Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer, do deliver to *Richard Smith*, Esq. the present Treasurer, the Balance of publick Money in his Hands; together with the Books and Papers belonging to the Publick; and that thereupon the Secretary do deliver up the said *Joseph Smith's* Bond.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Woodhull* do request the Concurrence of the Council to this Resolution.

The House took into Consideration the present Posture of Affairs, with an Enemy in this State approaching towards *Philadelphia*, think it necessary soon to rise and retire into their several Counties to provide for the Security thereof; and not having Time to go through the Bill for Support of Government, providing for the several Officers thereof, have come to the following Resolution:

Resolved,

That the Treasurer do pay unto the several Persons following, to be by them accounted for when the Bill for Support of Government is passed into a Law, to wit,

To His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esq. the Sum of *Two Hundred Pounds*.

To each of the Delegates of this State appointed in *June* last, or which have been appointed during this Sitting, *Twenty Shillings* per Day for each Day they have attended the Congress from the Appointment in *June* last.

To each Member of the Council and Assembly, *Eight Shillings* per Day for their Attendance at this and the late Sitting of Assembly, the Council to be paid upon Warrants signed by the Governor in Council, and the Members of Assembly by Certificates signed by the Speaker, or any two of the Members.

To *Charles Pettit*, Esq. Clerk of the Council, and to *Jonathan Deare*, Esq. Clerk of this House, the Sum of *Thirty-one Pounds* each, for Wages, Pen, Ink, Paper, and extraordinary Services.

To the Sergeant at Arms of this House the Sum of *One Pound Sixteen Shillings*.

To the Doorkeeper of the Council the Sum of *Four Pounds*.

To the Doorkeeper of the Assembly the Sum of *Seven Pounds One Shilling and Nine-pence*, for his Attendance, Fire-Wood and Candles, &c.

To *Thomas Polgreen Hewlings*, Esq. the Sum of *Nine Pounds*, for thirty Days Attendance in inspecting the Press when the Loan-Office Money was printed.

To *Richard Smith*, Esq. for thirty-four Days in the same Service, the Sum of *Ten Pounds Four Shillings*.

To Mrs. *Mecom* for the Use of the Room for the Assembly at this Sitting, the Sum of *Three Pounds*.

To *David Olden* for his Account for carting Assembly Books at sundry Times, and other Services, *Five Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Three-pence*.

To *Theophilus Elmer* and *Abraham Clark*, Esquires, the Sum of *Six Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Five-pence*, Expences in going to the Camp by Order of the House.

To *Isaac Collins*, in full of his Account, the Sum of *Seventy-two Pounds Nineteen Shillings and Five-pence*.

Ordered

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Woodbull* carry the foregoing Resolution to the Council and desire their Concurrence therein.

The House adjourned to *Tuesday* the 18th Day of *February* next, to meet at *Trenton*.

PITT's-TOWN, Wednesday, January 22, 1777.

Pursuant to a Notification from the Speaker, the House met, but there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed to Business, the Speaker adjourned the House till To-morrow.

Thursday, January 23, 1777.

The House met pursuant to Adjournment, when a Number sufficient to proceed to Business appeared.

The House adjourned to meet To-morrow Morning at Nine o'Clock at the Friends Meeting-House.

Friday, January 24, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit* as follows:

Gentlemen,

AFTER feeling with you for the Depredations and Cruelties perpetrated by the Enemy in their Incurfions into Part of this State, by taking the Advantage of the Time when so great a Part of our Army was entitled to a Discharge, and of the well known Defects of our Militia Law; I embrace this Opportunity to congratulate you on the important Enterprize against them at *Trenton*, and the signal Victory obtained over them at *Princeton* by the Troops under the Command of His Excellency General *Washington*, with the repeated Success of the *American* Arms in the several Skirmishes we have had with them since those memorable Events. They have indeed marked their Progress with Devastation and Murder; and contaminated the *British* Arms with Barbarities unknown to civilized Nations; but so far from any essential Benefit redounding to them from their Irruption into this State, or their having made the least Advances towards subduing the Continent of *America*, they are now obliged to shut themselves up in a small Corner of a Colony, over which, but a few Days ago, they ridiculously arrogated universal Empire. As their Blunders, if possible, are equal to their Cruelty, I am persuaded that unless we are wanting to ourselves, we have no Reason to be dispirited in our righteous Contest with a Prince and a People whom God Almighty, by thus infatuating, seems determined to destroy. But it being our Duty, in an humble Reliance upon Providence, to exert our utmost Efforts for assisting the Troops of the United States in expelling those refined Barbarians from our Territories; and fully sensible as we must now be, how very inadequate is our Militia Law to draw out our whole Force for that Purpose, I would most earnestly recommend it to you not to suffer any Business of inferior Moment to postpone your Deliberations on that important Subject.

Pitt's-Town, Jan. 24, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The

The House adjourned to *Wednesday* the 29th Instant, to meet at *Haddonfield*, in the County of *Gloucester*.

HADDONFIELD, Wednesday, January 29, 1777.

The House met,

And, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, the Speaker adjourned the House till To-morrow Ten o'Clock.

Thursday, January 30, 1777.

The House met,

Resolved,

That *Thomas Smith* be Doorkeeper to this House.

His Excellency's Message of the 24th Instant was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That the House do this Afternoon resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia.

The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from *Abraham Clark*, Esq, a Member of the Continental Congress; one from *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. respecting the Loss of the publick Money; and one from the Commissary of Cloathing for the northern Army; and also sundry Resolves of the Honourable the Continental Congress, all which were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Letter from *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. respecting the Loss of the publick Money which was in his Hands, was read the second Time; whereupon Mr. Speaker was desired to write to Mr. *Tucker*, requesting his Attendance on this House to give Information touching the subject Matter of said Letter.

Two Messages from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, in the Words following:

Gentlemen,

IT being recommended by the Honourable the Congress to the respective Legislatures of the United States to pass such a Law as will most effectually prevent the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery: I doubt not you will cheerfully comply with a Recommendation so just and reasonable in itself, and so necessary to effectuate a Measure of the last Importance to support the Credit of the Continental Currency.

They have also transmitted to me their Resolution of the 30th of *December* last, "that no Bacon, salted Beef and Pork, Soap and Candles, except such as may be necessary for the Crew, be exported from any of the United States after the fifth Day of *January* now past, until the first Day of *November* next, or until Congress shall make further Order therein; earnestly recommending it to the executive Powers of the several United States to see that the said Resolution be complied with." But as I know of no Authority the executive Power of this State has to prevent the Inhabitants from exporting the said Articles without an Act of Legislation for that Purpose, I would farther earnestly recommend it to you to pass a Bill for carrying the said Recommendation into Effect, "as it will be extremely difficult," the Congress justly remarks, "if not impracticable, to supply the Army of the United States with those Articles unless the Exportation thereof be prohibited."

Haddonfield, Jan. 30, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

P

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

THE State is indebted to *Richard Stockton*, Esq. for his Wages in attending the Congress as a Delegate from this State for the Space of one Hundred and fifty Days ; and to *Francis Hopkinson*, Esq. for his Attendance in the same Capacity for the Space of six Months ; for the Discharge of which I hope Provision will be made with all convenient Speed.

Haddonfield, Jan. 30, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia ; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again ; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, January 31, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from his Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

MR. *Debart* having refused to qualify as Chief-Justice of this State, and Mr. *Tucker*, one of the Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court, having accepted of a Protection from the Enemy as I am credibly informed ; and Mr. *Hopkinson*, the other, having declined to enter upon the Exercise of his Office, on Account of an Appointment by the Congress, which will require his Residence in *Philadelphia*, the State of our publick Affairs renders it indispensably necessary that the above Offices should be immediately filled by a new Appointment.

General *Williamson* and Lieutenant-Colonel *Tomkin* having resigned their respective Commissions, I give you this early Notice of their Resignations to enable you to supply those Vacancies, as soon as your other Business will permit.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Lewis*, of the Battalion of which *Bowes Reed*, Esq. is Colonel, having a Protection from the Enemy ; and Major *Sterling* of the same Battalion being removed out of the County of *Burlington*, the Colonel recommends Major *Shreve* to be appointed Lieutenant-Colonel, and Captain *Oakey Hoogland* to be appointed Major of the said Battalion.

Haddonfield, Jan. 31, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to a Joint-Meeting.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

THOUGH the Articles of War have sufficiently provided for the Punishment of Deserters, yet so little Care is taken in this State to apprehend Deserters, that I conceive it a Matter well worthy the Attention of the Legislature. And as the Desertion of Soldiers will, on the new Establishment, be of greater Detriment to the United States than it was before, I would recommend it to you to pass a Bill for the more effectual apprehending and securing all such Deserters from the Army of the United States as shall be discovered within the Bounds of this.

Haddonfield, Jan. 31, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House having received Information from Col. *Potter*, that a Number of Men have enlisted into his Battalion, who have not furnished themselves with Arms agreeable to the Act of Assembly, and, in Consequence thereof, cannot be reviewed by the Commissioners appointed for that Purpose; and the House being desirous to promote the Service at this critical Juncture, do resolve to furnish the said Men with Arms, and therefore desire *Thomas Denny*, Esq. to muster the said Men, that they may be immediately sent into Service; and do also appoint him a Commissioner to purchase the said Arms, and draw on the Treasurer for Money for that Purpose.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Camp* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. *Bowen* reported, that Mr. *Camp* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Council-Chamber, Jan. 31, 1777.

THE Council having taken into Consideration the Message received this Morning from the House of Assembly, with a Copy of their Resolution respecting the furnishing Col. *Potter's* Battalion with Arms, and appointing a Commissary for that Purpose;

Resolved,

That this House doth concur in the said Resolution.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Scudder* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the Township of *Lower-Penns-Neck*, in the County of *Salem*, praying a Law to empower the said Township to raise a Sum of Money by Tax, &c. to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge over *Salem Creek*, &c. was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the Petitioners have Leave to bring in a Bill.

His Excellency's Message of Yesterday was read the second Time and considered;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes*, Mr. *Newbold* and Mr. *Manning*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to prevent the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery; and that Mr. *Somers*, Mr. *Eldridge* and Mr. *Mott*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to prohibit the Exportation of Bacon, salted Beef and Pork, Soap and Candles, &c.

His Excellency's Message of this Day respecting Deserters, being read the second Time,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Woodhull*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for the more effectual apprehending and securing Deserters from the Army of the United States, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, February 1, 1777.

The House met.

The

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting of both Houses.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till *Monday* Nine o'Clock.

Monday, February 3, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, in the following Words :

Gentlemen,

SINCE we left *Pitt's-Town* I am honoured with a Letter from His Excellency General *Washington*, dated at *Morris-Town* the 24th of *January* last, on the Subject of the Militia of this State. As from his Station in the Army, he must be the best Judge, and from his Attachment to the Liberties of *America*, and his particular Interest in the Behaviour of the Troops under his Command, his Recommendation deserves the most serious Attention, I doubt not you will, in your Deliberations on the Militia Bill now before your House, receive it with the Respect it justly merits.

His Excellency observes that the irregular and disjointed State of our Militia, makes it necessary for him to inform me, that unless a Law is passed by our Legislature to reduce them to some Order, and oblige them to turn out in a different Manner from what they have hitherto done, we shall bring very few into the Field, and that even those few will render little or no Service.

The General farther observes that many of their Officers are of the lowest Class of People, and, instead of setting a good Example to their Men, are leading them into every Kind of Mischief ; one Species of which is that of plundering the Inhabitants under Pretence of their being Tories ; and he recommends the passing a Law for putting a Stop to this Kind of lawless Rapine ; conceiving that, unless something is done to prevent it, the People will throw themselves of Choice into the Hands of the *British* Troops.

But our first Object, in His Excellency's Opinion, should be a well regulated Militia Law. The People put under good Officers, would, he observes, behave in quite another Manner ; and not only render real Service as Soldiers, but protect, instead of distress, the Inhabitants.

What he would wish to have particularly insisted upon in the new Law is, that every Man capable of bearing Arms should be obliged to turn out, and not buy off his Service for a trifling Sum. We want Men, says he, and not Money.

These Observations are so clearly founded in Reason, and have been so frequently verified by Experience, that they cannot fail, I should imagine, of gaining universal Assent on the least Reflection. And respecting the Complaint of our Militia's violating private Property, that being more peculiarly in the civil Line, I had it in Contemplation to expostulate with you to prevent this iniquitous Practice, before I had the Honour of receiving His Excellency's Letter. A Practice which, however attempted to be dignified with the Title of Patriotism, or justified under the Idea of inflicting condign Vengeance on the internal Enemies of our Country, is not only repugnant to the Laws of the Land, whereby every Man's Property is secured and protected, until it be declared forfeited by judicial Process, but has a manifest Tendency to inflame the Minds of the Sufferers ; to excite Jealousies and Contentions among the Inhabitants, at a Time when we ought to

be more especially studious of cultivating Unanimity and Concord ; to diffuse amongst the Soldiers a Spirit of Licentiousness and Rapine ; and, in a Word, to relax all Discipline in the military, as well as subvert all Order in the civil, Department.

Haddonfield, Feb. 3, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, February 4, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a Letter from His Excellency General *Washington*, respecting the apprehending and securing Deserters ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading : He also laid before the House sundry Resolves of Congress respecting the Continental Currency ; which were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Memorial was presented by *William Hartshorne*, setting forth, that he has lately had a Cargo of Goods taken from him by one *Charles Loveland*, in Company with sundry armed Men, who alledged he had Orders from the General, and that he the said Memorialist was for some Time made a Prisoner by them, and praying Redress ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented by Captain *Robert Taylor*, and Lieutenant *David Paul*, setting forth, that they have enlisted a Company to serve till the first of *April* next, pursuant to Act of Assembly, and have laid out Money for their Subsistence, &c. and praying to be reimbursed ; which was read, and referred to the Committee on publick Accounts.

The like Petition from Captain *Seth Whildin*, praying to be reimbursed sundry Sums expended for the four Months Service ; was read, and referred to the Committee on publick Accounts.

His Excellency's Message of Yesterday respecting the Militia, was read the second Time ;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Dick*, and Mr. *Woodhull*, be a Committee to prepare an Answer thereto.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Mehelm*, from the Committee appointed to draught an Answer to His Excellency's Message of Yesterday, brought in a Draught, which was read, and ordered to be engrossed.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

BEING advised by the Council to send for a Number of Prisoners, about fifty or sixty, who were apprehended in this State, some for enlisting and causing others to enlist in the Service of the Enemy, and some for other Offences against the State, and now confined in *Lancaster* in the State of *Pennsylvania*, or in *Frederick-Town* in *Maryland*, in order that they may be proceeded against in a due

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Course

Course of Law; I am ready to carry the said Advice into Execution, as soon as your Honourable House shall provide the Means to defray the Charges that will necessarily attend it.

Haddonfield, Feb. 4, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, February 5, 1777.

The House met.

His Excellency's Message of Yesterday respecting the Expence that may attend the sending for the Prisoners sent from this State and confined in *Lancaster* in the State of *Pennsylvania*, or in *Frederick-Town* in *Maryland*, was read a second Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That this House will provide for the Payment of such Expence.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Memorial of *William Hartshorne* was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the Governor and Council; and that Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Bowen* do carry the said Memorial, with the Affidavit to prove the Facts therein set forth, to the President of the Council.

An Engrossed Message to His Excellency was read and compared, as follows:

Ordered,

THAT Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Bowen* do wait on His Excellency, and, in Answer to his Message of the third Instant, inform him, that this House have had a Bill under their Consideration some Time for regulating the Militia; which, when completed, they hope will remedy one of the Evils complained of by His Excellency and the General: And as to that Part of the Message respecting the justly complained of and pernicious Practice of plundering, the House is of Opinion that the Laws of this State are sufficient for that Purpose, if properly executed; and that a Proclamation from His Excellency, urging the Execution of them against Offenders, will fully answer the good Purpose intended.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, February 6, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Harris*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Desertions from the Army of the United States of America*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented by Captain *William Kelsey*, praying to be reimbursed sundry Expences in raising Men for the publick Service; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows:

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

IT being of the highest Importance that the People should have the earliest Notice of the Laws by which they are affected in their Lives and Property ; and the Acts passed the last Session, through the Confusion of the Times, not having been ordered to be printed, as I am informed, I would recommend it to you to direct the same to be printed without any Loss of Time.

Haddonfield, Feb. 6, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read,

Ordered,

That Copies of the Laws of last Session be sent to the Printer as soon as possible, in order that the same may be printed and dispersed.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House a Letter from *John Covenhoven*, Esq. one of the Members, praying, for Reasons therein mentioned, to resign his Seat in this House ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House taking into Consideration the Situation of the Cloathing purchased for the Continental Army by the respective Members of the Legislature ;

Resolved,

That for the better Conveniency and Safety thereof, *Thomas Denny* of Gloucester County, *Moore Furman* of Hunterdon County, and *Benjamin Halscy* of Morris County, be appointed to receive the said Cloathing, and deliver them out as they may receive Orders from the Legislature, or any Officer appointed for that Purpose ; and that the Receipts of the Persons above named, or either of them, be a sufficient Voucher and Discharge to the said Members for the Cloathing by them delivered.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Eldridge* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence in the above Resolution.

Mr. *Manning*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Wetherby* reported, that Mr. *Eldridge* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The several Petitions from insolvent Debtors in the Gaols of the different Counties in this State, were read the second Time ;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown*, Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Drake*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for their Relief, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, February 7, 1777.

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

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The House having required the Attendance of *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. to give Information respecting the Loss of the publick Money that was in his Hands; and Mr. *Tucker* having by Letter informed the Speaker he could not attend at the Time appointed;

Ordered,

That the Speaker do require the Attendance of Mr. *Tucker* before this House on *Thursday* next.

Ordered also,

That Mr. *Samuel Abbot* and Mr. *Randle Mitchel* do attend the House at the same Time, to give Evidence respecting the Matter; and that they be served with a Copy of this Order.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Council-Chamber Feb. 6, 1777.

THE House having taken into Consideration the Resolution of the House of Assembly of this Morning, "That for the better Conveniency and Security of the Cloathing purchased for the Continental Army by the Members of the Legislature, *Thomas Denny* of *Gloucester* County, *Moore Furman* of *Hunterdon* County, and *Benjamin Halfey* of *Morris* County, be appointed to receive the said Cloathing, and deliver them out as they may receive Orders from the Legislature, or any Officer appointed for that Purpose; and that the Receipts of the Persons above named, or either of them, be a sufficient Voucher and Discharge to the said Members for the Cloathing by them delivered."

Resolved,

That this House doth concur in the said Resolution.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Mr. *Somers*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the Exportation of Provisions and other Articles therein mentioned*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Desertions from the Army of the United States of America*, was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Moore*s and Mr. *Camp*.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, February 8, 1777.

The House met.

Thomas Denny, Esq. having, in Pursuance of a Resolve of this House of the 31st of last Month, purchased a Number of Arms; and being desirous of an Order of the House how to apply them,

Resolved,

That the said *Thomas Denny*, Esq. deliver the said Arms to the Captains in Colonel *Potter*'s Battalion, and take their Receipts for the same; and that the Captains do deliver them out to their Men on Condition that they be returned to Mr. *Denny*, or any other Person that may hereafter be appointed to receive them, at the Time the said Men are dismissed, unless such as are unavoidably lost in the Service; and in case they are not returned agreeable to this Resolve, the Officers are to retain so much of the Mens Wages as will amount to the Value of the said Arms.

The House considering that, in order to make it more easy and convenient for such of the Inhabitants of this State who may be inclinable to deliver up the Protections

Protections or Certificates taken from Lord or General *Howe*, or any Persons under their Authority, agreeable to the Proclamation lately published by His Excellency General *Washington*, proper Persons should be appointed and empowered throughout the State to receive such Protections or Certificates, and tender the Oaths of Allegiance to the State, &c.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Newbold*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for delaying the sinking the respective Quotas of the Sinking Fund Tax, collected and collecting for the last Year, and applying the same towards furnishing Magazines of Fire Arms, &c.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown*, Mr. *Drake*, Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Mitt*, or any three of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Accounts of such of the Members of the Legislature as have purchased Cloathing for the Continental Army, and make Report to the House; and that Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Board* do wait on the Council and desire them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower certain Persons within the State of New-Jersey, to take in Protections, and to administer the State Oaths, &c.* which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Monday Nine o'Clock.

Monday, February 10, 1777.

The House met,

And adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Petition was presented by divers Persons in Confinement in the State Prison in *Philadelphia*, praying to be brought into this State for Trial; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Board* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

Two Messages from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council Chamber, Feb. 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for more effectually preventing disaffected and evil-minded Persons destroying the Credit and Circulation of the Continental Bills of Credit, and the Bills of Credit emitted by the late Congress of this State, to the House of Assembly for Concurrence.*

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell* and Mr. *Cooper*, be a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly to settle the Accounts of such of the Members of the Legislature as have purchased Cloathing for the Continental Army; and that Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The Bill sent down by the Council, entitled, *An Act for more effectually preventing disaffected and evil-minded Persons destroying the Credit and Circulation of the Continental Bills of Credit, &c.* was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Memorial was presented from Captain *Jacob Dunn*, praying an Allowance for Pay and Expences in raising a Company of Minute-men in Colonel *Stewart's* Battalion, agreeable to a Resolution of the late Provincial Convention ; which was read, and referred to the Committee on publick Accounts.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower certain Persons to take in Protections*, &c. was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That the Clerks and other Persons named in the *Dedimus Potestatem* in the respective Counties where it may be necessary, do forthwith go through their County and call on the Judges and Justices appointed in such Counties, and qualify them, or such of them as are willing to qualify, and make Return of the Names of such as do qualify, and of those who refuse.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, February 11, 1777.

The House met.

Henry Garritse, Esq. one of the Representatives for the County of *Essex*, appearing in the House pursuant to a Notification from the Speaker, and informing the House that he has taken Protection from Lord and General *Howe*, or under their Authority, and signed the Declaration, and that he desired Leave to resign his Seat in the House ; whereupon the House, having taken the same into Consideration, do resolve, That no Member having taken such Protection is entitled to a Seat in this House, and therefore do vacate Mr. *Garritse's* Seat therein.

Resolved,

That this House will direct an Order for electing a Member for the said County of *Essex*, in the Room of Mr. *Garritse*, as soon as a Law is passed prescribing the Mode of Election.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower certain Persons within the State of New-Jersey to take in Protections*, &c. was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Mickle* carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Desertion from the Army*, &c. reported the same with several Amendments ; which being read, with the said Amendments in their Places ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for more effectually preventing disaffected and evil-minded Persons destroying the Credit and Circulation of the Continental Bills of Credit*, &c. was read the third Time ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That

That Mr. *Basset* and Mr. *Eldridge* do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that it has passed this House.

Mr. *Price* reported, that Mr. *Mickle* and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

Mr. *Basset* reported, that Mr. *Eldridge* and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

The Petition from sundry Persons confined in the State Prison in *Philadelphia*, praying to be brought into this State for Trial, was read a second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the Governor and Council.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to prohibit the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to prohibit the Exportation of Provisions, and other Articles therein mentioned*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery*, was read and compared; on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Basset</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,	Mr. <i>Wetherby</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mickle</i> ,
Mr. <i>Manning</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mehelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,	Mr. <i>Bowen</i> ,
Mr. <i>Moore</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Hathorne</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> .
Mr. <i>Drake</i> ,	Mr. <i>Newbold</i> ,	Mr. <i>Eldridge</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Woodhull</i> ,	Mr. <i>Somers</i> ,	Mr. <i>Speaker</i> .	
Mr. <i>Shaffer</i> ,	Mr. <i>Price</i> ,		

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Camp* do carry the said Bill to the Council for Concurrence.

Mr. *Wetherby* reported, that Mr. *Camp* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, February 12, 1777.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to prohibit the Exportation of Provisions, and other Articles therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Woodhull* do carry the Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Woodbull* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to obviate Doubts with Respect to the Authority of Counsellors*, was read a second Time, and committed to Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Mott*.

Whereas this House have a Right, by the Constitution, to sit upon their own Adjournments,

Resolved,

That if any Bill be under their Consideration and unfinished at the Time of an Adjournment for any Space more than from Day to Day, the House when met upon such Adjournment again, may negative all the Proceedings relative to such Bill, and take up the subject Matter thereof by bringing in a new Bill, if moved for, and Leave given.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Mott*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Harris*, and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for the Support of Government, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Price*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for Support of Government of the State of New-Jersey, to commence the twenty-seventh Day of August 1776, and to end the second Tuesday in October 1777; and to discharge the publick Debts and contingent Charges thereof*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Desertions from the Army of the United States of America, and other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Wetherby</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mehelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,
Mr. <i>Manning</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Bowen</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mickle</i> ,
Mr. <i>Moore</i> s,	Mr. <i>Newbold</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> ,	Mr. <i>Hathorne</i> .
Mr. <i>Drake</i> ,	Mr. <i>Somers</i> ,	Mr. <i>Eldridge</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Woodbull</i> ,	Mr. <i>Price</i> ,	Mr. <i>Speaker</i> .	
Mr. <i>Shaffer</i> ,	Mr. <i>Basset</i> ,		

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Newbold* carry the Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Bowen* reported, that Mr. *Newbold* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 12, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the Amendments thereto annexed.

Whereupon the said Bill being read, with the Amendments in their Places; on the Question, the House agrees to the said Amendments;

Ordered,

Ordered,

That the Bill as amended be re-engrossed.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Holmes*, be a Committee to confer with the Governor concerning the sending for the Prisoners at *Frederick-Town* in *Maryland*, and settle the Wages and Terms on which the Guard is to go, &c. and make Report to the House.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, February 13, 1777.

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Woodbull*, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council in a Conference respecting the sending for the Prisoners confined at *Frederick-Town* in *Maryland*, and conveying them into this State for Trial ; and that Mr. *Mebelm* and Mr. *Hathorne* do wait on the Council and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Mebelm*, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill sent from the Council, entitled, *An Act to obviate Doubts with Respect to the Authority of Counsellors*, reported the same with several Amendments ; whereupon the said Bill being read, with the Amendments in their Places ; on the Question, Whether the House agrees thereto or not ? It passed in the Affirmative, as follows :

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Basset</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mebelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Wetherby</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,
Mr. <i>Manning</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Bowen</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,
Mr. <i>Moore</i> s,	Mr. <i>Newbold</i> ,	Mr. <i>Hathorne</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> .
Mr. <i>Drake</i> ,	Mr. <i>Somers</i> ,	Mr. <i>Eldridge</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Woodbull</i> ,	Mr. <i>Price</i> ,	Mr. <i>Speaker</i> .	
Mr. <i>Shaffer</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mickle</i> ,		

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Hathorne* and Mr. *Mebelm* do carry the Bill with the Amendments thereto annexed to the Council, and desire their Concurrence therein.

The Bill re-engrossed with the Council's Amendments, entitled, *An Act to prevent the Counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Hathorne* and Mr. *Mebelm* do carry the Bill to the Council.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Woodbull* and Mr. *Camp*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for regulating the impressing of Horses, Carriages, and other necessities for the Use of the Army within this State.

Mr. *Mebelm* reported, that Mr. *Hathorne* and himself had obeyed the Orders of the House.

There being Business of great Importance before the House, and several Members being absent;

Resolved,

That the Sergeant at Arms do forthwith cause *John Combs*, *Reoloff Vandike*, *Jacob Bogart*, *Peter Zabrijkie* and *John Covenhoven*, Esquires, to give their immediate Attendance on the Business of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 13, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* and Mr. *Hand* be a Committee to meet a Committee of the House of Assembly in a Conference respecting the sending for the Prisoners confined at *Frederick-Town* in *Maryland*, and conveying them into this State for Trial; and that the said Committees meet at the House of Mr. *Kinnard* To-morrow Morning at eight o'Clock.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, February 14, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented by *Samuel Henry*, setting forth, that he was, by the late Convention, confined to his Farm and within two Miles around it, and praying to be permitted to go about to transact his Business, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Samuel Tucker, Esq. appeared before the House agreeable to Order, and was examined respecting the Loss of the publick Money that was in his Hands. *Randle Mitchel* also appearing as a Witness, was examined on Oath touching the same.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Samuel Abbot appeared in the House according to Order, and was examined as a Witness on his Affirmation, being one of the People called *Quakers*, touching what he knew respecting the Loss of the publick Money which was in the Hands of *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. (*For the Affidavits see Page 68, &c.*)

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Paterfson*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Paterfson* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to obviate Doubts with Respect to the Authority of Counsellors*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and acquaint them that this House agrees to the first and second of the said Amendments; and as to the third and last of the said Amendments the House does not agree thereto, but in that Part adheres to their Bill.

Which Message being read, and the Question put, Whether this House will recede from the said third and last Amendments? It passed in the Negative.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Basset* and Mr. *Newbold* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that this House do adhere to all the Amendments made thereto by this House.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Evidence offered by *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. respecting the Loss of the publick Money that was in his Care; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

Mr. *Newbold* reported, that Mr. *Basset* and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, February 15, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *John Johnston* and *Jonathan Deare*, Esquires, setting forth, that they were with others appointed by the late Act of Assembly Signers of the £. 125,000 emitted by said Act to be let out on Loan; that they conceive the Commissions allowed to the Signers is inadequate to the Service, &c. and praying a just Allowance for the Services performed; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Petition of *Richard Brown* and Company, praying an Exemption for fifteen Men from Service in the Militia, to be employed in carrying on the Whale Fishery from this State, was read a second Time; on the Question, Whether the House will grant the Prayer of the Petition? It was carried in the Negative.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met, And

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Monday Ten o'Clock.

Monday, February 17, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Jesse Hart* and others, praying the Encouragement of the Legislature in erecting a Salt-Works, &c. in this State, which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

Two Messages from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows:

Gentlemen,

IT having been the constant Practice of the House of Representatives to furnish the Governor, from Day to Day, with a Copy of the Minutes of their Proceedings,

ceedings, I could wish the Custom was continued ; as the Governor could doubtless be the better enabled to discharge his Duty to the Publick for knowing what Business was depending before the House.

Haddonfield, Feb. 17, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Gentlemen,

AS an accurate Map of this State, with the Delineation of the different Counties, Townships, Districts, Roads and Rivers, would doubtless be of publick Utility, I submit it to your Consideration to provide for making an actual Survey of it (except as to such Parts as can be protracted from Surveys already made, which being the Case of great Part, will considerably lessen the Expence of the Chart proposed.

Haddonfield, Feb. 17, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Messages were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Camp*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to repeal Part of the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the raising of four Battalions*.

His Excellency's Message of this Morning, desiring that the House would furnish him from Day to Day with a Copy of the Minutes, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That his Request be complied with.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Evidence offered by *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. respecting the Loss of the publick Money that was in his Hands ; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris* reported from the Committee, that they had come to two Resolutions, which, with Leave of the House he reported as follows :

1. *Resolved,*

That the Affidavit of the said *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. and also those of *Randle Mitchel* and *Samuel Abbott*, relative to the Loss of said Money, be entered on the Journals of this House.

2. *Resolved,*

That the Publick be cautioned by Advertisement in the publick News-Papers against taking any of said Money.

And that the Committee desired Leave to sit again ; to which the House agreed.

SAMUEL TUCKER, Esq. one of the late Treasurers of the Provincial Congress of the Colony of *New-Jersey*, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposes and saith, That on being informed the *British* Army under General *Howe* was on their March through this Province, and that their Design was to be at *Trenton*, where the Deponent lives, thought it most prudent to remove all his Papers, with some of his most valuable Effects, out of *Trenton*, together with the unsigned publick Money ; that he did accordingly, on or about the 30th Day of *November* 1776, remove all his Bonds, Deeds, Books of Accounts, together with those belonging to *Anderson* and others Estates, in his Hands as an Executor, with all his Plate, his and his Wife's Cloaths, with sundry other valuable Effects, one Horse and Pheaton, some *Maryland* and *New-Jersey* Loan-Office Money, to the House of Mr. *John Abbott*, about five Miles from *Trenton*, in the County of *Burlington*, with about £. 5818 : 16 : 3 unsigned Congress Money, under the Care of *John* and *Samuel Abbott* ; that General *Howe* and his

Army

Army arrived at *Trenton* on *Sunday* the 8th of *December* last past; that on *Monday* the 9th *December* one Lieutenant *Hackshaw*, with a Detachment of *British* Troops, by order of Lieutenant-Colonel *Robert Abercromby*, came to the Home of Mr. *John Abbott*, in Company with Mrs. *Mary Pointing*, an Inhabitant of *Trenton*, as this Deponent is informed and verily believes, and seized all the Effects at Mr. *Abbott's* the Property of this Deponent, with those in Trust in his Hands, together with the unsigned publick Money, and carried the same to the House of Mr. *Randle Mitchel*, and shewed the Money to Mr. *Mitchel* as this Deponent believes and is informed, afterwards carried the same or Part thereof to *Princeton*, and from thence to *Nevo-Brunswick*, where this Deponent is informed and now believes his Effects or Part thereof now remains, as Part of the Cloaths and Linnen was sent Home, and his Wife's Watch delivered her by Lieutenant-Colonel *Abercromby*; that this Deponent left *Trenton* the 8th *December* last, and took with him the signed publick Money, amounting to £. 1504 : 4 : 0 with about £. 1000 more in Trust in his Hands as an Executor; that he paid the publick Money to Mr. *Treasurer Smith*; that he lodged the other Money in such secure Places as was in his Power, none of which has been lost as the Deponent believes; that on *Saturday* the 14th *December* on hearing that his Wife and Family was in the most distressed Condition with Sicknes, and that his Wife sent him Word begging he would return Home, he set off Home; that about one Mile from *Cranford's* Bridge he was met by *John Leonard*, *Anthony Woodward*, and number more, he believes upwards of twenty, on Horseback; *Leonard* presented a Pistol to the Deponent's Breast, said he had General *Howe's* Order to take the Deponent Prisoner, and used him with very ill Language; detained him till Mr. *Robert Pearson* gave his Parole the Deponent should remain on his Farm until they give further Orders; remained at Mr. *Pearson's* until ordered Home by one Mr. *Brown* a *Hessian* Lieutenant on *Monday*; that he applied for a Protection, which was granted by Colonel *Rall* the 17th *December* last; that he then enquired after his Papers, found Part left in Colonel *Abercromby's* Lodgings in *Princeton*, and has since received a Part found by one Mr. *Leisler* and carried to *Philadelphia*; that he has since sent a Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel *Abercromby*, which was delivered by his Neice *Elizabeth G. White*, requesting he would return his Property and Papers, particularly those belonging to *Anderfon's* and others Estates in Trust in the Deponent's Hands, and got for Answer, that they could not be delivered with Propriety until they knew the Part the Deponent would take or act; among the Papers already received by the Deponent, not one relating to any of the Estates in Trust as he remembers or believes, this Deponent having good Grounds to believe that Mrs. *Mary Pointing* had informed the *British* Officers that the Deponent's Goods, &c. was at *John Abbott's*; and hearing that one *John Jolly* had piloted them from Mr. *Isaac Pearson's*, was informed by *Jolly's* Wife that all the Questions they asked him was, Did he know the Way to *John Abbott's*? He answered he did; they then pressed him along to show the Way from *Isaac Pearson's* to Mr. *Abbott's*; and that, Mrs. *Jolly* informed the Deponent, was all they said to her Husband, as he informed her, and further saith not.

Sworn before me this 15th }
February 1777, }

SAMUEL TUCKER.

EPHRAIM HARRIS.

RANDLE MITCHEL being examined, deposeth and saith, that Colonel *Abercromby* with 500 Men as was said, came to his House on *Sunday* the 8th of *December* last, and staid there till the *Saturday* following, and he thinks that on either *Tuesday* or *Wednesday* after they first came, some Officers in the Room where he was shewed him some Letters directed to Mr. *Tucker*; he asked them where they

got the Letters? They told him they had Information of Mr. *Tucker's* Goods, and that they were concealed in *Trenton*; that the same Evening he was called into Colonel *Abercromby's* Room, who asked him if he knew one *Samuel Tucker*? he answered he did; the Colonel then asked him about the Character and Situation of Mr. *Tucker*, and whether he was not a violent Rebel? he answered that Mr. *Tucker* was a Man of Character and considerable Fortune as he understood; that he was a Member of the Provincial Congress, and had been President thereof; that he had formerly been Sheriff of *Hunterdon* County, and a Member of Assembly, but believed he had never been a violent Rebel, for he understood he, Mr. *Tucker*, had been the chief Cause of the last Clause being inserted in the Constitution of *New-Jersey*. The Colonel then shewed him a square black Trunk, with a great Number of Papers and Parchment Deeds, and said he must have been a Man of considerable Consequence; that they asked him to look at some of the Deeds, &c. he told them there was no Use in his looking at them; they then pointed at a large Parcel of printed Paper on the Floor, and told him to look what a fine Parcel of Money they had got; it appeared to this Depoent to be about a Ream of Paper; they then took up some half Sheets and counted how much a Sheet amounted to; he thinks they contained £. 20 : 2 : 0 each; they then gave him some of the Money and desired him to look at it, which he did, and found it signed by only two Signers, and did not know it ought to be signed by more; they asked him what he would give for it, he said he would not give any Thing for it, and looked on it not worth any Thing; he asked what they intended to do with Mr. *Tucker's* Papers and Money? the Colonel answered he would pack them in the Trunk again and send them to General *Howe*; he then left the Room and heard no more of it, but seen the Officers reading Letters directed to Mr. *Tucker*, and further saith not.

Sworn the 14th Day of February 1777,
before me EPHRAIM HARRIS. }

RANDLE MITCHEL.

SAMUEL ABBOTT, one of the People called *Quakers*, being duly affirmed, saith, that about ten Days before the Enemy came to *Trenton*, *Samuel Tucker*, Esq. came to his House and brought with him sundry Chests and Boxes; that among them was the Box of his Pheaton, in which said *Tucker* informed him was the publick Money, which was put in his Lodging Room in the upper Part of the House; that it remained there till the Day after the Enemy came to *Trenton*; that on that Day about twelve o'Clock one Lieutenant *Hackshaw*, with about twenty Soldiers came to his House and enquired for Mr. *Tucker's* Goods (at which Time Mrs. *Pointing* was there with a Waggon to bring off some Goods she had at the Affirmant's House;) that they pressed his Waggon and therein carried off from his House all the Goods Mr. *Tucker* had there, except one Chest belonging to Mr. *Tucker's* Negro; that Mr. *Tucker* came to the Affirmant's House afterwards and inquired for his Goods and found only the Negro's Chest left; that the Enemy also took a Pheaton and one Horse which he had in keeping for Mr. *Tucker*, and further saith not.

Affirmed the 14th Day of February 1777,
before me EPHRAIM HARRIS. }

SAMUEL ABBOTT.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to repeal the eighth Section of an Act, entitled, An Act for the raising of four Battalions*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Petition of *Jesse Hart* and others, praying the Encouragement of the Legislature in erecting a Salt-Works in this State, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

Ordered,

That they have Leave to bring in a Bill for the Purpose mentioned in their Petition.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to repeal the eighth Section of an Act, entitled, An Act for the raising of four Battalions*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Petitions of *Robert Smith*, Esq. and others, Signers of the Loan-Office Money, was read the second Time; and, on the Question, Whether they be allowed for their Services any more than is directed by the Act of Assembly? It passed in the Negative.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, February 18, 1777.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to repeal the eighth Section of an Act, entitled, An Act for the raising of four Battalions*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Drake* do carry the Bill to the Council for Concurrence.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met, And

Resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

Resolved,

That *Ijaac Collins* be Printer to this State, and that he forthwith print 600 Copies of the Laws passed the last Sittings of Assembly, and that the same be sent to the different Counties in the like Proportion that the Journals of the late Convention were distributed.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, February 19, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows:

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

AS several Persons who had entered into Bond to the Use of this State for their good Behaviour, and to keep within the Limits therein mentioned, and not to give any Assistance to, or carry on any Correspondence with, the Enemy, have since departed this State, and thereby forfeited their respective Bonds: And it being impracticable in Actions commenced on those Bonds to serve the Process on the Persons of the Obligors; nor, as the Law now stands, to attach their Estates: I would therefore recommend it to the House to pass an Act enabling the Attorney-General to file Declarations against them on their respective Bonds, and the same being advertised in the publick Papers, a reasonable Time be allowed them to enter their Appearances and plead to such Declarations; and on such Plea being put in, that a Trial be had after due Notice given in like Manner of the Time and Place; but on Failure of entering their Appearances and putting in their Plea, that the Court be authorized to pass Judgment against them by Default (as if mesne Process had been regularly served upon them, or they had duly appeared to the Suit) and Execution be awarded against and levied upon their Estates and Effects within our Dominion, that the State may not be defrauded of its just Debts by their Departure out of it, that being the very Offence by which the Forfeiture accrued.

Haddonfield, Feb. 19, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for better regulating the Militia; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had gone through the said Bill and made several Amendments thereto, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same;

Ordered,

That the Report be made in the Afternoon.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

IT is represented to me by Colonel *Shreve* that our Troops suffer much at *Burlington* for Want of proper Regulations, having neither Commissary nor Barrack-Master, and recommends Mr. *Ellis Wright*, who, he informs me, has acted as Commissary to great Satisfaction, to be appointed Deputy-Commissary for that Place; and *Joseph Hollinshead*, Esq. for Barrack-Master, the Barracks he represents as wanting some small Repairs; and that there ought to be a Provision of Straw and Wood for the Troops.

Haddonfield, Feb. 19, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message having been read and considered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Drake* do wait on His Excellency, and in answer to said Message, inform him, that as Colonel *Shreve's* Regiment will probably continue but a short Time at *Burlington*, it will be improper for this House to go into the Appointment of a Commissary, and more especially as they think it is the Right of the Commissary-General, to whom they would direct Colonel *Shreve* to apply, if he finds his Continuance at that Place should make it necessary: That Barrack-Masters have been appointed by the Convention; and that they

are

are informed it is the Business of the Quarter-Master to furnish Wood and Straw.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Elmer.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 19, 1777.

THAT Mr. Elmer do acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to repeal the eighth Section of an Act, entitled, An Act for the raising of four Battalions*, is passed by this House without any Amendment.

Mr. Harris, according to Order, reported the Bill for better regulating the Militia, with the several Amendments made thereto by the Committee of the whole House; which being read with the Amendments in their Places,

Ordered,

That the same be again read and debated To-morrow.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, February 20, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit.

Gentlemen,

SEVERAL of our Bridges, particularly that of *Penshawkin*, and the new Bridge near *Mountholly*, want, as I am informed, to be repaired; the Number of Troops and of Cattle constantly passing, render it at this Time more peculiarly inconvenient, as well as of dangerous Tendency, to be obliged to take a tedious, circuitous Rout; I would therefore submit the Matter to your Consideration, as I apprehend the Laws now in Force respecting Bridges, are inadequate to the present Exigency.

Haddonfield, Feb. 20, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message being read,

Ordered,

That Mr. Combs, Mr. Tallman and Mr. Vandike, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for repairing such Bridges as have been lately taken up to prevent the Enemy's March through this State.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes do acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to prohibit the Exportation of Provisions and other Articles therein mentioned*, is passed this House without any Amendment.

Mr. Camp, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to regulate the impressing Carriages, Horses, and other Necessaries for the Use of the Army within this State*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Manning, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for delaying the sinking the respective Quotas of the Sinking Fund Tax collected and collecting, and applying the same towards furnishing Magazines of Arms and warlike Stores*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The House being informed that *Thomas Denny*, Esq. has a Quantity of Cloathing in his Hands, and that Colonel *Shreve's* Battalion now at *Burlington* are not all furnished;

Resolved,

That Mr. *Denny* deliver what Cloathing may be necessary for the said Troops at *Burlington* to the Commanding Officer there, and take his Receipt for the same.

According to Order Mr. *Harris*, from the Committee of the whole House, made report of the Bill for better regulating the Militia, together with the Amendments made to the same; whereupon the Bill was read Paragraph by Paragraph, with the Amendments in their Places; and the Bill being further amended in the House, the same as amended was agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, February 21, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill for Support of Government, &c. was read the second Time; whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the said Bill; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

CONCEIVING it a Matter of publick Utility for the Legislatures of each of the United States to have the speediest Access to the Laws passed by the rest, as their Circumstances are in a great Measure similar, and many useful Hints might by those Means be mutually suggested, as well as all necessary Uniformity observed, I submit to your Honourable House the Propriety of applying to each of our Sister States to be furnished as soon as conveniently may be after the End of every Session, with a Copy of the Acts passed by them during that Session, engaging in Return to provide them with an Impression of ours in like Manner.

Haddonfield, Feb. 21, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting: Being returned,

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met,

And the Speaker took the Chair.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for Support of Government; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had gone through the said Bill, and had come to several Resolutions, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same;

Ordered,

Ordered,
That the Report be made To-morrow Morning.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, February 22, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

GENERAL *Putnam* acquaints me, that among other Articles taken from *Stockton's* Party, there were sixty-three excellent Muskets, which are now in the Hands of our Militia, and that (with General *Washington's* Permission) he would advise that they be purchased by this State for their Use : As we are in Want of Arms, I could wish that Measures were immediately adopted to make them the Property of this State—I could also wish that Major *Debart* was resolved without Delay respecting the Arms purchased by him.

I transmit to you a Letter from *George Measam*, Esq. Commissary for Cloathing for the northern Army ; with a Return of Cloathing for the regular Troops of the United States at *Ticonderoga*, and the Posts depending thereon, to enable this State seasonably to provide the Cloathing of our Troops to be ordered to the northern Department, and to regulate the same with regard to Numbers, agreeable to the said Return.

Haddonfield, Feb. 22, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

According to Order Mr. *Harris*, from the Committee of the whole House, reported the Resolutions of the Committee on the Bill for Support of Government, as follows :

1. *Resolved,*

That in and by the said Bill, when passed into a Law, there be paid to His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esq. Governor and Commander in Chief of this State, at the Rate of *Six Hundred Pounds* per Annum ; to commence the 27th Day of *August* 1776, and to end the second *Tuesday* of *October* 1777.

2. To the Chief-Justice of this State for the Time being, at the Rate of *Three Hundred Pounds* per Annum.

3. To the Second Justice of the Supreme Court of this State for the Time being, at the Rate of *Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds* per Annum.

4. To the Third Justice of the Supreme Court of this State for the Time being, at the Rate of *Two Hundred Pounds* per Annum.

5. To the Attorney-General of this State for the Time being, at the Rate of *Forty Pounds* per Annum.

6. To the Treasurer of this State for the Time being, at the Rate of *Eighty Pounds* per Annum.

7. To the Clerk of the Circuits for the Time being, at the Rate of *Fifty Pounds* per Annum.

8. To the Clerk of the Council for the Time being, the Sum of *Fourteen Shillings* per Diem ; and also the Sum of *Four-pence* per Sheet, reckoning ninety Words to the Sheet, for entering the Minutes of the Council, and of the Joint-Meeting, fair in the Journals ; and at the same Rate for a Copy thereof for the Printer.

9. To the Clerk of the House of Assembly for the Time being, the Sum of *Fourteen Shillings* per Diem ; and also *Four-pence* per Sheet, reckoning ninety Words

Words to the Sheet, for entering the Votes or Minutes of the House fair in the Journals ; and at the same Rate for a Copy thereof, and of the Laws, for the Printer.

10. To the Doorkeeper of the Council the Sum of *Five Shillings* per Diem.

11. To the Sergeant at Arms of the Assembly, the Sum of *Three Shillings* per Diem ; and to the Doorkeeper the Sum of *Five Shillings* per Diem.

12. To any of the Justices of the Supreme Court for attending Circuit Courts and Courts of Oyer and Terminer, &c. if but one attends, the Sum of *Ten Pounds* for each Time he shall attend ; and, if two or more of the said Justices attend, the Sum of *Five Pounds* to each of them who shall attend, in Manner prescribed by said Act, &c.

13. To each of the Delegates who now are, or hereafter shall be appointed, the Sum of *Twenty Shillings* a Day for his Attendance in Congress.

14. To each of the Members of the Council for the Time they attended at the former Sitzings at *Princeton* and *Burlington*, *Eight Shillings* per Diem ; and for the Time they shall attend at this or any Sitting of Assembly during the Continuance of said Act, the Sum of *Ten Shillings* a Day.

15. To the Treasurer the Sum of *Six-pence* per *Pound* for exchanging ragged and torn Bills of Credit of this State.

16. To *Isaac Collins*, or any other Printer, for printing the Laws and Votes, or Minutes of the Council, Assembly and Joint-Meetings, such Sum or Sums as *John Hart*, *Robert Friend Price*, *Peter Tallman*, *Joseph Newbold* and *Joseph Holmes*, Esquires, or any two of them, shall certify under their Hands as due for the same.

17. To the Speaker and each of the Members of the House of Assembly for their Attendance at the former Sitzings at *Princeton* and *Burlington*, *Eight Shillings* a Day ; and for their Attendance at this or any future Sitting during the Continuance of said Act, *Ten Shillings* a Day, on Certificates signed by *John Hart*, *John Combs*, *Peter Tallman*, *Charles Coxe*, *Joseph Holmes*, *John Buck*, *Jacob Drake* and *Robert Friend Price*, Esquires, or any two of them :

On the Question, Whether the House agrees to the said Resolutions of the Committee ? It was carried in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That the Bill for Support of Government as reported and agreed to be engrossed.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, was read and compared ; and, on the Question, Whether the same do pass or not ? It was carried in the Affirmative, as follows :

Yea.	Yea.	Nays.
Mr. Board,	Mr. Newbold,	Mr. Brown,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Price,	Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Bassett,	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Wetherby,	Mr. Mehelm,
Mr. Moores,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Somers,
Mr. Drake,	Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Mickle,
Mr. Woodbull,	Mr. Bowen,	Mr. Dick,
Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Hathorne,	Mr. Buck.
Mr. Coxe,	Mr. Eldridge,	
Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Speaker.	

Resolved,

That the Bill do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Tallman and Mr. Coxe do carry the same to the Council for their Concurrence.

The

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Somers* have Leave to bring in a Bill for the Sale of the Prize Brigantine *Defiance*, now lying at *Great-Egg-Harbour*; whereupon he brought in a Bill accordingly, entitled, *An Act to empower the Marshal of the Court of Admiralty to secure and sell the Prize Vessel or Brigantine called the Defiance, lately taken by the Militia of this State*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for delaying the sinking the respective Quotas of the Sinking Fund Tax, &c. and applying the same towards furnishing Magazines, &c.* was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Brown*, and Mr. *Somers*.

The Petition of *Samuel Henry*, a Prisoner confined on Parole by Order of Convention, praying, for Reasons therein set forth, to have his Liberty to transact his Business, &c. was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the Governor and Council.

His Excellency's Message of this Day being read the second Time and considered,

Resolved,

That *Thomas Denny*, Esq. do purchase the Arms now in the Hands of the Militia, lately taken from *Stockton's* Party; and that Dr. *William Burnet* do purchase the Arms Major *Debart* has to dispose of, for the Use of the State; and are empowered to draw on the Treasurer for such Sums as may be wanted for the Purposes; that the Arms to be purchased of Major *Debart* be for the Use of the first Battalion; and that Dr. *Burnet* take a Receipt of the Commanding Officer of the said Battalion for the said Arms.

The House adjourned till Monday next Ten o'Clock.

Monday, February 24, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, was read the second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House; whereupon the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the said Bill; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for regulating Elections; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, February 25, 1777.

The House met.

W

Mr.

Mr. Dick, pursuant to Leave given, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants of Lower-Penn's-Neck, in the County of Salem, to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge and Causeway in the Road leading from Stony-Island, through the Township of Manington, to the Salem great Road*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Engrossed Bill for Support of Government of the State of New-Jersey, to commence the twenty-seventh Day of August 1776, and to end the second Tuesday in October 1777; and to discharge the publick Debts and contingent Charges thereof; was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Combs, Mr. Vandike, Mr. Wetherby, Mr. Coxe and Mr. Somers do carry the said Bill to the Council and desire their Concurrence thereto.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Desertions from the Army of the United American States, &c.* with the Amendments made thereto by the Council, in their Places, was read the second Time; on the Question, Whether the House agrees to the said Amendments? It passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That the said Bill as amended be re-engrossed.

Mr. Combs reported, that Mr. Vandike, Mr. Wetherby, Mr. Coxe, Mr. Somers and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower the Marshal of the Court of Admiralty to secure and sell the Prize Vessel or Brigantine called the Defiance, lately taken by the Militia of this State*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Committee appointed to meet a Committee of the Council to agree with Captain Lavis, respecting the Prisoners at Frederick in Maryland, made the following Report:

THE Committee appointed by the Council and Assembly to agree with Captain Lavis to bring the Prisoners belonging to this State from Frederick in Maryland, report, that they have agreed with Captain Lavis to bring the said Prisoners for the Sum of *One Hundred and Eighty-four Pounds Sixteen Shillings*, the State reimbursing all necessary Expences said Captain is at with the Prisoners in the Journey from Frederick to Salem.

February 25, 1777.

Signed in Behalf of the Committees,

THEOPHILUS ELMER,
ROBERT FRIEND PRICE.

Resolved,

That Captain Lavis be empowered to draw from the Treasury of this State the above Sum of £. 184: 16, on His Excellency the Governor's Certificate of his having performed the said Service.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for regulating Elections; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. Combs, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some further Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, February 26, 1777.

The House met.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill for regulating Elections; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Combs*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had gone through the said Bill, and made several Amendments thereto, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same;

Ordered,

That the Report be made To-morrow Morning.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants of Lower-Penn's-Neck, in the County of Salem, to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge and Causeway in the Road leading from Stony-Island, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Re-engrossed Bill, with the Council's Amendments, entitled, *An Act to prevent Desertions from the Army of the United States of America, &c.* was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Buck* and Mr. *Newbold* do carry the said Bill to the Council.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants of Lower-Penn's-Neck, in the County of Salem, to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge and Causeway in the Road leading from Stony-Island, &c.* was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Dick* do carry the Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

A Petition was presented from the County Committee of *Suffex*, praying an Allowance for sundry Expences in taking up and examining a Number of disaffected Persons in said County; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Dick* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Wetherby*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Buck* reported, that Mr. *Newbold* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

The Petition of Captain *Job Sheppard*, presented last Sitting at *Burlington*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the said Petition lie on the Table.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, February 27, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Combs*, according to Order, reported the Bill for regulating Elections, with the Amendments made thereto in a Committee of the whole House; and the said Bill being read, with the Amendments in their Places,

Ordered,

That the further Consideration thereof be deferred till the Afternoon.

Mr. *Woodhull*, being sick, has Leave of Absence.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Speaker laid before the House two Letters from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. President of the Continental Congress, with sundry Resolves of Congress, and the Declaration of Independency; which were read, and ordered to be entered, and are as follow:

(Circular)

Gentlemen,

Baltimore, Jan. 31, 1777.

AS there is not a more distinguished Event in the History of *America*, than the Declaration of her Independence—nor any, that, in all Probability, will so much excite the Attention of future Ages, it is highly proper, that the Memory of that Transaction, together with the Causes that gave Rise to it, should be preserved in the most careful Manner that can be devised.

I am therefore commanded by Congress to transmit you the enclosed Copy of the Act of Independence, with the List of the several Members of Congress subscribed thereto; and to request that you will cause the same to be put upon Record, that it may henceforth form a Part of the Archives of your State, and remain a lasting Testimony of your Approbation of that necessary and important Measure. *I have the Honour to be,*

Gentlemen,

your most obedient and

very humble Servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Honourable Assembly of the State of *New-Jersey*.

IN CONGRESS, *July 4, 1776.*

The Unanimous DECLARATION of the THIRTEEN UNITED STATES
of *AMERICA*.

WHEN, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their CREATOR, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that Governments long established, should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of *Great-Britain* is a History of repeated Injuries and Uturpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the publick Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depositary of their publick Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the mean Time, exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harrass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution,

Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws ; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation.

For quartering large Bodies of armed Troops among us :

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States :

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World :

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent :

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury :

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences :

For abolishing the free System of *English* Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies :

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments :

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection, and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our Fellow-Citizens, taken Captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestick Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless *Indian* Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every Stage of these Oppressions we have petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our *British* Brethren. We have warned them, from Time to Time, of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the Rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES ; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the *British* Crown, and that all political Connexion between them and the State of *Great-Britain*,

Britain, is, and ought to be totally dissolved ; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of Right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, we mutually pledge to each other our *Lives*, our *Fortunes*, and our *sacred Honour*.

John Hancock.

PENNSYLVANIA,	{	Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.	MASSACHUSETTS-BAY,	{	Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.
			RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE, &c.		Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.
GEORGIA,	{	Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.	CONNECTICUT,	{	Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.
NORTH-CAROLINA,	{	William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.	DELAWARE,	{	Cesar Rodney, George Read.
SOUTH-CAROLINA,	{	Edward Rutledge, Thos. Heyward, junr. Thomas Lynch, junr. Arthur Middleton.	NEW-YORK,	{	William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.
MARYLAND,	{	Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.	NEW-JERSEY,	{	Richard Stockton, Jno. Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.
			NEW-HAMPSHIRE,	{	Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.
			VIRGINIA,	{	George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, junr. Fran. Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

In CONGRESS, JANUARY 18, 1777.

Ordered,

THAT an authenticated Copy of the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCY, with the Names of the MEMBERS of CONGRESS, subscribing the same, be sent to each of the UNITED STATES, and that they be desired to have the same put on RECORD.

By Order of CONGRESS,

Attest. CHA. THOMSON, *sec.*

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Baltimore,

*Baltimore, Feb. 20, 1777.**Gentlemen,*

IN Consequence of the Proceedings of the several Committees from the States of *Massachusetts-Bay, Connecticut, New-Hampshire, and Rhode-Island*, being laid before Congress, they have come to the enclosed Resolves, which I am commanded to transmit to you, together with those Parts of the Minutes that relate to the Price of Labour and other Articles.

Although Congress approve the Measures adopted by that Body to prevent the Depreciation of their Currency (except striking Bills to bear Interest) yet they have referred to the Consideration of the other States, the Propriety of regulating the Prices of Goods, and at the same Time recommend to them to devise such Expedients as they may think will be most likely to remedy the Evils occasioned by the exorbitant Prices of Manufactures, and all other Articles of Trade. I am therefore to request you will appoint Commissioners to meet at *York-Town in Pennsylvania*, on the third *Monday in March* next, then and there to confer with other Commissioners from the States of *New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia*, on the Subject of adopting such a System of Regulation as may be most suitable to those States. I beg Leave to request your Attention to the whole of the enclosed Resolves; and have the Honour to be,

*Gentlemen,**your most obedient and**very humble Servant,*JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*Honourable Assembly of the State of *New-Jersey*.IN CONGRESS, *Feb. 15, 1777.**Resolved,*

THAT considering the Situation of the *New-England* States, Congress approve of the Measures adopted and recommended by the Committee from the four *New-England* States for the Defence of the State of *Rhode-Island*, and also of the Measures to be taken for preventing the Depreciation of their Currency, except that Part which recommends the striking Bills bearing Interest, which being a Measure tending to depreciate the Continental and other Currencies, ought not to be adopted; and it is so recommended by Congress to the said *New-England* States.

That the Plan for regulating the Price of Labour, of Manufactures, and of internal Produce within those States, and of Goods imported from foreign Parts, except military Stores, be referred to the Consideration of the other United States, and that it be recommended to them to adopt such Measures as they shall think most expedient to remedy the Evils occasioned by the present fluctuating and exorbitant Prices of the Articles aforesaid.

That for this Purpose it be recommended to the Legislatures, or in their Recess, to the executive Powers of the States of *New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia*, to appoint Commissioners to meet at *York-Town in Pennsylvania*, on the third *Monday in March* next, to consider of and form a System of Regulation adapted to those States, to be laid before the respective Legislatures of each State for their Approbation.

That for the like Purpose it be recommended to the Legislatures, or executive Powers in Recess of the Legislatures of the States of *North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia*, to appoint Commissioners to meet at *Charles-Town, in South-Carolina*, on the first *Monday in May* next.

That

That it be recommended to the Legislatures of the several States, to take the most effectual Measures for manning the Continental Frigates fitted for the Sea in their respective States.

That it be earnestly recommended to the United States to avoid as far as possible further Emissions of Paper Money, and to take the most effectual Measures for speedily drawing in and sinking their Paper Currency already emitted.

That such Parts of the Proceedings of the said Committees as relate to the Price of Labour and other Things be published and transmitted to the other States, together with these Resolutions.

By Order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

Resolved,

That *John Mehelm*, Esq. be directed to deliver the Stockings by him purchased for the Continental Army, to *Mr. Sidney Berry*, for the Use of Colonel *Potter's* Regiment.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Camp*, *Mr. Moores*, and *Mr. Bogart*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to prevent Cattle from running at Large, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, February 28, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors*, was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from His Excellency by the Secretary.

Mr. Speaker,

HIS Excellency is in the Council Chamber, and desires the Attendance of this House ;

Whereupon *Mr. Speaker* left the Chair, and, with the House, waited on His Excellency ; and being returned, *Mr. Speaker* resumed the Chair, and reported, that the House had waited on His Excellency, who was pleased to make a Speech to the Council and General Assembly, of which *Mr. Speaker* said he had, to prevent Mistakes, obtained a Copy, which by Order of the House was read, and is as follows :

Gentlemen,

HAVING already laid before the Assembly, by Messages, the several Matters that have occurred to me, as more particularly demanding their Attention, during the present Session ; it may seem less necessary to address you, in the more ceremonious Form of a Speech. But conceiving it my Duty to the State, to deliver my Sentiments on the present Situation of Affairs ; and the eventful Contest between *Great-Britain* and *America* ; which could not, with any Propriety, be conveyed in occasional Messages ; you will excuse my giving you the Trouble of attending for that Purpose.

After deploring with you the Desolation spread through Part of this State, by an unrelenting Enemy, who have indeed marked their Progress, with a Devastation unknown to civilized Nations ; and evincive of the most implacable Vengeance ; I heartily congratulate you on that subsequent Series of Success, wherewith it hath

pleased the Almighty to crown the *American Arms*; and particularly on the important Enterprize against the Enemy at *Trenton*; and the signal Victory obtained over them at *Princeton*, by the gallant Troops under the Command of His Excellency General *Washington*.

Considering the contemptible Figure they make at present; and the Disgust they have given to many of their own Confederates amongst us, by their more than *Gothic* Ravages; (for thus doth the Great Disposer of Events often deduce good out of Evil) their Irruption into our Dominion, will probably redound to the publick Benefit. It has certainly enabled us the more effectually to distinguish our Friends from our Enemies. It has winnowed the Chaff from the Grain. It has discriminated the temporizing Politician, who on the first Appearance of Danger, was determined to secure his Idol—Property, at the Hazard of the general Weal; from the persevering Patriot, who having embarked his All in the common Cause, chooses rather to risque, rather to lose that All for the Preservation of the more estimable Treasure LIBERTY; than to possess it (enjoy it he could not) upon the ignominious Terms of tamely resigning his Country and Posterity to perpetual Servitude. It has, in a Word, opened the Eyes of those, who were made to believe, that their impious Merit in abetting our Persecutors, would exempt them from being involved in the common Calamity. But as the Rapacity of the Enemy was boundless; their Rapine was indiscriminate, and their Barbarity unparalleled. They have plundered Friends and Foes. Effects capable of Division they have divided. Such as were not, they have destroyed. They have warred upon decrepid Age; warred upon defenceless Youth. They have committed Hostilities against the Professors of Literature; and the Ministers of Religion: Against publick Records and private Miniments; and Books of Improvement; and Papers of Curiosity; and against the Arts and Sciences. They have butchered the wounded asking for Quarter; mangled the dying weltering in their Blood; refused to the Dead the Rites of Sepulture; suffered Prisoners to perish for Want of Sustenance; violated the Chastity of Women; disfigured private Dwellings of Taste and Elegance; and in the Rage of Impiety and Barbarism, profaned Edifices dedicated to Almighty God.

And yet there are amongst us, who, either from ambitious or lucrative Motives,—or intimidated by the Terror of their Arms;—or from a partial Fondness, for the *British* Constitution;—or deluded by insidious Propositions;—are secretly abetting, or openly aiding their Machinations to deprive us of that Liberty, without which, Man is a Beast, and Government a Curse.

Besides the inexpressible Baseness of wishing to rise on the Ruins of our Country; or to acquire Riches at the Expence of the Liberties and Fortunes of Millions of our Fellow-Citizens; how soon would those delusive Dreams upon the Conquest of *America*, be turned into Disappointment? For where is the Fund to recompence those Retainers to the *British* Army; those intentional Pensioners of a Bankrupt Nation? Was every Estate in *America* to be confiscated, and converted into Cash; the Product would not satiate the Avidity of their own Creatures; nor furnish an adequate Repast for the keen Appetites of their own ministerial Beneficiaries. Instead of Gratuities and Promotion, these unhappy Accomplices in their Tyranny, would meet with supercilious Looks, and cold Disdain; and after tedious Attendance, be finally told by their haughty Masters, that they indeed approved of the Treason, but despised the Traitor. Insulted, in fine, by their pretended Protectors but real Betrayers; and goaded with the Stings of their own Consciences, they would remain the frightful Monuments of human Contempt, and divine Indignation, and linger out the Rest of their Days in Self-Condemnation and Remorse; and in weeping over the Ruins of their Country, which themselves had been instrumental in reducing to Desolation and Bondage.

Others

Others there are, who, terrified at the Power of *Britain*, have persuaded themselves, that she is not only formidable, but irresistible.—That her Power is great, is beyond Question. That it is not to be despised, the Dictate of common Prudence. But then we ought also to consider her, as weak in Council, and groaning with Debt: Reduced in her Trade; reduced in her Revenue: Immersed in Pleasure; enervated with Luxury; and in Dissipation and Venality surpassing all *Europe*. We ought to consider her as hated by a potent Rival her natural Enemy; and particularly exasperated at her imperious Conduct in the last War, as well as her provoking Manner of commencing it: And thence inflamed with Resentment, and only watching a favourable Juncture for open Hostilities. We ought to consider the amazing Expence and Difficulty of transporting Troops and Provisions above three Thousand Miles; with the Impossibility of recruiting their Army at a less Distance, save only with such Recreants, whose conscious Guilt, must, on the first Approach of Danger, appal the stoutest Heart.—These insuperable Obstacles, are known and acknowledged by every virtuous and impartial Man in the Nation. Even the Author of this horrid War, is incapable of concealing his own Confusion and Distress. Too great to be wholly suppressed, it frequently discovers itself in the Course of his Speech. A Speech terrible in Word; and fraught with Contradiction: Breathing Threatenings; and betraying Terror: A motley Mixture of Magnanimity and Consternation; of Grandeur and Abasement. With Troops invincible, he dreads a Defeat; and wants Reinforcements. Victorious in *America*, and triumphant on the Ocean, he is an humble Dependant on a petty Prince; and apprehends an Attack upon his own Metropolis: And with full Confidence in the Friendship and Alliance of *France*, he trembles upon his Throne, at her secret Designs, and open Preparations.

With all this, we ought to contrast the numerous and hardy Sons of *America*, enured to Toil; seasoned alike to Heat and Cold; hale; robust; patient of Fatigue; and from an ardent Love of Liberty, ready to face Danger and Death. The immense Extent of Continent which our infatuated Enemies have undertaken to subjugate. The remarkable Unanimity of its Inhabitants, notwithstanding the Exception of a few Apostates and Deserters. Their unshaken Resolution to maintain their Freedom, or perish in the Attempt. The Fertility of our Soil, in all Kinds of Provisions, necessary for the Support of War. Our inexhaustible internal Resources for Military Stores and Naval Armaments. Our comparative Oeconomy in publick Expence; and the Millions we save, by reprobating the farther Exchange of our valuable Staples, for the worthless Bawbles and Finery, of *English* Manufacture. Add to this, that in a Cause so just and righteous on our Part, we have the highest Reason to expect the Blessing of Heaven, upon our glorious Conflict. For who can doubt the Interposition of the SUPREMELY JUST, in Favour of a People forced to occur to Arms, in Defence of every Thing dear and precious; against a Nation deaf to our Complaints; rejoicing in our Misery; wantonly aggravating our Oppressions; determined to divide our Substance; and by Fire and Sword to compel us into Submission?

Respecting the Constitution of *Great-Britain*, bating certain Prerogatives of dangerous Tendency, it has indeed been applauded by the best Judges; and displays in its Original Structure, illustrious Proofs of Wisdom; and the Knowledge of Mankind. But what avails the best Constitution with the worst Administration? For what is their present Government—and what has it been for Years past, but a pensioned Confederacy against Reason, and Virtue, and Honour, and Patriotism, and the Rights of Man? What their Governors but a set of political Craftsmen flagiciously conspiring to erect the Babel DESPOTISM, on the Ruins of the ancient and beautiful Fabric of LAW? A shameless Cabal notoriously employed in deceiving the Prince; corrupting the Parliament; debasing the People; depressing

depressing the most virtuous ; and exalting the most profligate ! In short, an insatiable Junta of publick Spoilers, lavishing the national Wealth ; and by Peculation and Plunder, daily accumulating a Debt already enormous !—And what the Majority of their Parliament, formerly the most august Assembly in the World, but venal Pensioners on the Crown ; a perfect Mockery of all Representation ; and at the absolute Devotion of every Minister ? What were the Characteristicks of their Administration of the Provinces ? The Substitution of Instructions in the Room of Law : The Multiplication of Officers to strengthen the Court-Interest : Perpetually extending the Prerogatives of the King ; and retrenching the Rights of the Subject : Advancing to the most eminent Stations, Men without Education, and of dissolute Manners : Employing with the Peoples Money a Band of Emissaries to misrepresent and traduce the People. And (to crown the System of Mis-rule) sporting with our Persons and Estates, by filling the highest Seats of Justice with Bankrupts, Bullies and Blockheads.

From such a Nation, (though all this we bore, and should probably have borne for a Century, had they not avowedly claimed the unconditional Disposal of Life and Property) it is evidently our Duty to be detached. To remain happy or safe in our Connection with her, became thenceforth utterly impossible. She is, moreover, precipitating her own Fall ; or the Age of Miracles is returned ; and *Britain* a Phænomenon in the political World without a Parallel.

The Proclamations to ensnare the timid and credulous, are beyond Expression disingenuous and tantalizing. In a gilded Pill, they conceal real Poison. They add Insult to Injury. After repeated Intimations of Commissioners to treat with *America*, we are presented, instead of the peaceful Olive-Branch, with the devouring Sword. Instead of being visited by Plenipotentiaries to bring Matters to an Accommodation ; we are invaded with an Army, in their Opinion, able to subdue us ; and upon discovering their Error, the Terms propounded amount to this, “ If you will submit without Resistance, we are content to take your Property, “ and spare your Lives ; and then (the Consummation of Arrogance !) we will “ graciously pardon you, for having hitherto defended both.”

Considering then, their bewildered Councils ; their blundering Ministry ; their Want of Men and Money ; their impaired Credit, and declining Commerce ; their lost Revenues, and starving Islands ; the Corruption of their Parliament, with the Effeminacy of the Nation—and the Success of their Enterprize is against all Probability. Considering farther the horrid Enormity of their waging War against their own Brethren, expostulating for an Audience, complaining of Injuries, and supplicating for Redress ; and waging it with a Ferocity and Vengeance unknown to modern Ages, and contrary to all Laws human and divine,—and we can neither Question the Justice of our Opposition, nor the Assistance of Heaven to crown it with Victory.

Let us however, not presumptuously rely on the Interposition of Providence without exerting those Efforts, which it is our Duty to exert ; and which our bountiful Creator has enabled us to exert. Let us do our Part to open the next Campaign with redoubled Vigour ; and until the United States have humbled the Pride of *Britain*, and obtained an honourable Peace, cheerfully furnish our Proportion for continuing the War : A War, on our Side, founded on the immutable Obligation of Self-Defence ; and in Support of Freedom, of Virtue, and every Thing tending to ennoble our Nature, and render a People happy. On their Part, prompted by boundless Avarice ; and a Thirst for absolute Sway ; and built on a Claim repugnant to every Principle of Reason and Equity : A Claim subversive of all Liberty, natural, civil, moral, and religious ; incompatible with human Happiness, and usurping the Attributes of Deity ; degrading Man, and blaspheming God.

Let us all, therefore, of every Rank and Degree, remember our plighted Faith and Honour, to maintain the Cause with our Lives and Fortunes. Let us inflexibly persevere in prosecuting to a happy Period, what has been so gloriously begun, and hitherto so prosperously conducted. And let those in more distinguished Stations, use all their Influence and Authority, to rouse the supine; to animate the irresolute; to confirm the wavering; and to draw from his lurking Hole the skulking Neutral, who, leaving to others the Heat and Burden of the Day, means in the final Result, to reap the Fruits of that Victory, for which he will not contend. Let us be peculiarly assiduous in bringing to condign Punishment, those detestable Parricides, who have been openly active against their native Country. And may we, in all our Deliberations and Proceedings, be influenced and directed by the great Arbiter of the Fate of Nations, by whom Empires rise and fall; and who will not always suffer, *the Sceptre of the Wicked, to rest on the Lot of the Righteous*; but in due Time avenge an injured People, on their unfeeling Oppressor, and his bloody Instruments.

Haddonfield Feb. 25, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Ordered,

That His Excellency's Speech have a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary.

Gentlemen,

BY a Letter from Brigadier-General *Dickinson* herewith laid before you, you will be made acquainted with the favourable Opinion he entertains of the Utility of keeping up our light Horse; the Military in general, as far as I have had Opportunity to collect their Sentiments, think it expedient for us to put them on a respectable Footing; for my own Part, I am convinced, that, with proper Provision, they may render the State essential Service; and therefore think it my Duty to recommend the Matter to your serious Consideration.

Haddonfield, February 28, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Samuel Miller, jun. having produced Receipts for the Sale of one Thousand and one Pounds of Salt-Petre manufactured within this State; and his Affidavit that he has not received any Part of the Bounty ordered to be paid by the Congress of this State;

Resolved,

That the Treasurer pay to the said *Samuel Miller, jun.* or his Order, the Sum of *Fifty Pounds One Shilling*, as a Bounty, agreeable to an Ordinance of the said Congress.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Board* wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence in this Resolution.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Feb. 28, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower the Marshal of the Court of Admiralty to secure and sell the Prize Vessel, &c.* is passed by this House without any Amendments.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to direct the Mode of repairing the Bridges destroyed to prevent the*

March of the Enemy through this State; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

His Excellency's Speech was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be printed and dispersed.

A Petition was presented by Captain *Jacob Arnold*, of *Morris County*, praying Pay for his Company of light Horse while in actual Service; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, March 1, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 1, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict*, Mr. *Scudder*, Mr. *Elmer*, Mr. *Symmes*, and Mr. *Paterfon*, and such other Members as choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the House of Assembly, in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*; and that the Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference; that the Committees meet at the House of *Thomas Smith*, at three o'Clock this Afternoon; and that Mr. *Fell* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose.

Which Message being read and considered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Holmes*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Bogart*, Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Somers*, and such other Members as choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*; and that the Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference, and that Mr. *Eldridge* do acquaint the Council therewith; and that the Committee of this House will attend at the Time and Place appointed by the Council.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met,

And adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, March 3, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from the Committee of the County of *Monmouth*, setting forth, that the Gaol of said County had been frequently broken, and Prisoners rescued; and praying that their Magistrates may be empowered, in extraordinary Cases, to send disaffected Persons out of the County to be confined; which was read,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Bogart*, Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Tallman*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to enable the Magistrates in the several Counties in this State to order such Persons as they find dangerous on Examination, to any Gaol or Gaols in the State, out of the County in which they reside.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Eldridge*, and Mr. *Newbold*, or any three of them, be a Committee to join with a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of *Richard Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer of this State, and burn the cancelled Money in his Hands, and make Report to the House; and that Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Manning* do acquaint the Council therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with Time and Place of Meeting.

The Petition from the County Committee of *Suffex*, praying an Allowance for fundry Expences in taking up and examining a Number of disaffected Persons in that County, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 3, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Fell*, Mr. *Cooper*, and Mr. *Elmer*, or any two of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly, to settle the Accounts of *Richard Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer of this State, and burn the cancelled Money in his Hands, and make Report of their Proceedings to this House; that the said Committees meet for that Purpose at the House of *Samuel Kinnard*, at five o'Clock this Afternoon; and that Mr. *Symmes* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 3, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* do acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants of Lower-Penn's-Neck, in the County of Salem, to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge and Causeway in the Road leading from Stony-Island, through the Township of Manington, to the Salem great Road*, is passed by this House without any Amendment.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, March 4, 1777.

The House met.

A Memorial was presented by Captain *Jonathan Lippincott*, setting forth, that he in *August* last was ordered out with his Company in the Militia Service; that, in order to equip his Company, he was obliged to take a Number of Arms from the Inhabitants, one of which was lost, and another broken, and praying to be paid for the same; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

John Covenhoven, Esq. one of the Members for *Monmouth*, attending according to the Order of the House, was called in and heard respecting his being taken Prisoner by the Tories and carried to *New-York*; and it appearing by Mr. *Covenhoven's* own Confession that he had taken the Oaths of Allegiance to the King of *Great-Britain*, &c. and had given Security to remain inactive during the present Contest between *Great-Britain* and the United States of *America*,

Resolved,

Resolved,

That Mr. *Covenhoven* has thereby rendered himself unfit to take his Seat in this House ; and that his Seat be vacated accordingly.

Resolved,

That this House will direct an Order for electing a Member for the County of *Monmouth* in the Room of Mr. *Covenhoven*, as soon as a Law is passed prescribing the Mode of Election.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, March 5, 1777.

The House met.

The Committees of Council and Assembly met in Conference on the Bill for better regulating the Militia.

The

DR.		RICHARD SMITH, late Treasurer, in Ac—	
<i>September 28.</i>	Balance of <i>John Smyth</i> , Esq. late Eastern Treasurer's Account, settled by the Committees of both Houses,	-	£. 807 : 17 : 6
<i>November 23.</i>	Received of <i>John Holmes</i> , Esq. Chairman of the County Committee of <i>Monmouth</i> , by the Hands of <i>Joseph Holmes</i> , Esq. being Militia Fines,	-	17 : 8 : 0
<i>December 2.</i>	Received of Governor <i>Livingston</i> , being Part of the Money paid by <i>John Dennis</i> , Esq. late Treasurer, to him as Brigadier-General of Militia,	-	347 : 5 : 0
	Received of <i>Eli Eldridge</i> , Esq. being the <i>Cape-May</i> Quota of the Sinking Fund for the present Year,	-	250 : 7 : 0
<i>December 3.</i>	Received of <i>Joseph Smith</i> , Esq. late Treasurer, being the Balance due from him, as settled by the Committees of Council and Assembly,	-	6146 : 9 : 2
<i>December 8.</i>	Received of <i>Samuel Tucker</i> , Esq. late Treasurer,	-	1504 : 4 : 0
			£. 9073 : 10 : 8

Ordered,

That *Richard Smith*, Esq. do pay the Balance of the said Account into the Hands of the Honourable *John Stevens*, Esq. for the Treasurer ; and that thereupon Mr. Secretary *Pettit* do deliver up Mr. *Smith's* Bond.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Tallman* do desire the Concurrence of the Council therewith.

Mr.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Committees met again in Conference on the Militia Bill.

To-morrow being appointed by His Excellency's Proclamation to be observed as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, &c. the House adjourned till Friday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, March 7, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. Combs, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Account of *Richard Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer, made report of the same, which was read and agreed to by the House, and is as follows:

count with the State of <i>New-Jersey</i> , per Contra			CR.
March 4. 1777.	By fundry Vouchers from No. 1, to No. 100, inclusive,	£. 4693 : 5 : 1	
	By six Months Service as Treasurer, -	125 : 0 : 0	
		<hr/>	
	Balance due to the State, - - -	£. 4818 : 5 : 1	
			4255 : 5 : 7

£. 9073 : 10 : 8

Haddonfield, March 4, 1777.

HAVING examined the above Account and the Vouchers thereto, do find a Balance due to the State of *New-Jersey* of *Four Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty-five Pounds Five Shillings and Seven-pence*.

Signed by Order of the Committee,

JOHN FELL,
JOHN COMBS,
SAMUEL DICK,
THEOPHILUS ELMER,
ELI ELDRIDGE.

Mr. Combs further reported that the Committees had burned the cancelled Money, amounting to £. 6254 : 8 : 0

Mr. Cox reported, that Mr. Tallman and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit, as follows :

A a

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

I THINK it my Duty to inform you that there is an absolute Necessity for calling out the Militia of this State to join the Army under the Command of His Excellency General *Washington*, or that we are to expect the most dreadful Devastations from a cruel Enemy ; and that the Militia are not at present compellable to turn out by any Law of this State, provided they pay a certain Consideration, in Lieu of actual Service.—What gives me inexpressible Anxiety is, that by the Militia Bill lately sent up to the Council, and now referred to a Conference, personal Service is again to be commuted for, by pecuniary Fines, which in Times of actual Invasion (our Case at present) must appear to every impartial Man, altogether incompetent and nugatory. You will therefore excuse me for recommending to you, in the most importunate Manner, the passing a Militia Law without Delay, effectual for the Purpose of calling into the Field the Strength of this State, to oppose the meditated Progress of the Enemy. By effectual, I mean the Exaction of personal Service, or the Delinquents finding another able-bodied Man in his Room ; or the Consequences will be dreadful beyond Expression. I am not insensible, Gentlemen, either of the publick Detriment, or private Inconvenience, occasioned by such frequent Calls upon a Militia, chiefly composed of Men who subsist by Agriculture, and to whom the Pay allowed is a very inadequate Recompence for the Loss of their Labour ; but as they will probably not be wanted above a Month, and this is a Season of the Year in which they can best be spared from Home, and there is an absolute Necessity for augmenting the Force now on Duty, every other Consideration ought to give Way to that of effectually obstructing the Progress of the Enemy through this State, especially as Providence seems now to have furnished us with a favourable Opportunity of preventing them from drawing farther Supplies from the Country, and probably of totally subduing them before they can be farther reinforced.

Hudsonfield, March 7, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the Council respecting the subject Matter of the Militia Bill, made the following Report, viz.

YOUR Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the Council respecting the subject Matter of the Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, beg Leave to report :

1st. As it is highly reasonable that the Burden of the publick Service should be laid as equal as possible on all the Inhabitants ; and as every Principle of Justice and civil Society requires that all such as may be exempted from actual Service in the Militia should, in a pecuniary Way, contribute their just Proportion towards the Defence and Preservation of the Government under which they claim, and are entitled to receive, Protection : The Conferees are of Opinion, and do accordingly recommend, that such Persons as are of the Age of fifty and upwards, and are exempted from military Service on the Score of Age ; and such as are between the Ages of sixteen and fifty, and are exempted on the Score of Inability of Body ; and such as are exempted on the Score of Profession or Office, should be taxed in Lieu of, and by Way of Equivalent for, their Exemption ; the Exempts, taken in one collective Point of View, compose the most opulent Part of the Community ; and, during the present interesting Contest, many of them have been unprofitable, if not wholly useless.

2dly. That on all Exempts there should be assessed, besides other Taxes, a Rate
or

or Tax to the same Amount, and in the same Proportion, as they would pay in such Year when the Sum of £. 15,000 was directed to be raised.

3dly. That every Person exempted as aforesaid from actual Service in the Militia, who shall, at his own Expence, fit out any one or more Son or Sons under Age, and living in his Service, Apprentice or Apprentices, Servant or Servants, and keep him or them properly equipped and accoutred as by Law is required, shall, for every Son, Apprentice or Servant so kept equipped and accoutred as aforesaid, be entitled to a Deduction of one third Part of the said Tax; and if he shall so fit out and keep equipped and accoutred three or more Sons, Apprentices and Servants, he shall not be subject to the Payment of any such Tax.

4thly. That the Money arising from the Taxation of Exempts shall be deposited in the State Treasury, and be set apart and appropriated as a Fund for the Relief and Benefit of such as may be wounded, and of the Widows and Children of such as may die in the Service of the State, in Proportion to their respective Necessities—This sound Policy, and Justice, and Humanity, and the Faith of this State, plighted by the late Convention, most clearly demand.

5thly. As light Horse are extremely useful and necessary, that there be three Companies of Horse raised in this State; that each Company consist of thirty-three Privates, and be officered by a Captain, Lieutenant and Cornet, who shall be considered as of equal Rank with the Captains, first Lieutenants and Ensigns of Foot Militia.

6thly. That the Horse Militia, when in actual Employ, shall, as a Compensation for their personal Service, have the same Pay, Rations and Allowance as the Horse of the United States of *America*: And as the Horsemen furnish themselves with Horses, they shall, when in actual Service, be allowed at the Rate of *One Shilling and Six-pence* a Day, over and besides the Continental Pay, as a Compensation for the Use of their Horses.

7thly. That the Commander in Chief for the Time being, with the Advice of the Legislature, or in it's Recess, with the Advice of the Privy Council, in case the Assistance of the Militia of this State shall be requested by the Honourable Congress to assist the Continental Army in this State, or any of the neighbouring States, be empowered to call into actual Service the Whole, or such Part of the Militia, as he shall deem necessary.

8thly. That, in order to enforce Men to give personal Service, every Non-commissioned Officer or Soldier, who shall neglect or refuse to march when called upon on an Invasion or Alarm; or who, when the Company to which he belongs shall be convened for the Purpose of raising Levies, or detaching the Whole or Part of the Militia for the Defence of this State, or any of the neighbouring States, shall neglect or refuse to march when detached in his Turn, or to provide a fit Person to march in his Stead, shall, for each Offence, be fined in any Sum not less than *Five Pounds*, nor more than *Thirty Pounds*, to be deposited in the State Treasury, and appropriated in such Manner as the Legislature shall direct.

9thly. That there be an Appeal from the Assessment of Fines.

10thly. That when any Part of the Militia is called out, the Commission-Officers be authorized to make the Detachment from the Company which they command, and to determine who shall go, paying proper Attention to the Course or Routine of Duty.

11thly. That, in order to furnish with Arms such as may be detached, but are not properly equipped, the Commission-Officers be empowered to take, under proper Regulations, the Arms of those who remain.

JOHN STEVENS, *Chairman*,

JOHN HART.

Which

Which Report was read and agreed to by the House.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, March 8, 1777.

The House met.

On Motion,
Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Bogart* and Mr. *Mott*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to repeal that Part of the Fee Bill which Respects the Fees to be taken by the Secretary, on Commissions to Militia Officers, Justices of the Peace and Coroners.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Memorial of Captain *Jonathan Lippincott*, praying an Allowance for two Guns lost, &c. in the Militia Service; was read the second Time, and referred to the Committee on publick-Accounts.

The like Memorial from *John Walling*, praying Allowance for one Gun lost in the Militia Service; was read, and referred to the Committee on publick Accounts.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 8, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* do wait on the House of Assembly, and, in answer to their Message of Yesterday, desiring the Concurrence of this House in their Resolution "That *Richard Smith*, Esq. do pay the Balance of his Account as late Treasurer, into the Hands of the Honourable *John Stevens*, Esq. for the Treasurer, and that thereupon Mr. Secretary *Pettit* do deliver up Mr. *Smith's* Bond," acquaint them, that this House cannot at present concur in the said Resolution, having not yet approved the Report of their Committee appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Assembly to settle the Account of the said *Richard Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer, but have come to the following Resolution thereon, *videlicet*,

Resolved,

That the Sum of *One Hundred and Twenty-five Pounds*, passed to the Credit of *Richard Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer of this State, in the Account reported by the Committees appointed to settle the said late Treasurer's Account, for "six Months Service as Treasurer," is not warranted by Law, nor by any Vote or Resolution concurred in by this House.

That, as to the Sum of *Eight Hundred Pounds*, passed to the Credit of the said late Treasurer in the said Account, as paid to *Thomas Denny*, Esq. on the 19th of *February* last, it does not appear to this House by what Authority, nor for what Purpose the same was disbursed by the said late Treasurer.

Which being read and considered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mebelm* and Mr. *Board* wait upon the Council, and, in answer to their Message of this Day, inform them, that the £. 125 : 0 : 0 allowed to *Richard Smith*, Esq. late Treasurer, was in Consideration of a Promise made him by the House of Assembly at *Burlington*, upon his taking upon him the Execution of the Office, and was stipulated to be in Lieu of all Perquisites allowed former Treasurers; that the £. 800 : 0 : 0 passed to the Credit of Mr. *Smith's* Account, was Money advanced

advanced to *Thomas Denny*, Esq. pursuant to a Resolution of the Assembly, to which the Concurrence of the Council was obtained, to be laid out in purchasing Arms for the Use of this State, for which Mr. *Denny* is to be accountable.

Resolved,

That the Commissioners appointed by a Joint-Meeting of the Council and Assembly of this State, to meet at *York-Town*, to confer with the other Commissioners from the States of *New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland* and *Virginia*, on the Subject of adopting such a System of Regulation as may be most suitable to those States, be allowed and paid the Sum of *Twenty-five Shillings* a Day each, for the Time they shall be employed in that Service ;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Drake* wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Drake* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 8, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* do acquaint the House of Assembly, that the House concur in the Resolution of the House of Assembly contained in their Message of this Day, " That the Commissioners appointed by a Joint-Meeting of the Council and Assembly of this State to meet at *York-Town*, to confer with the other Commissioners from the States of *New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland* and *Virginia*, on the Subject of adopting such a System of Regulation as may be most suitable to those States, be allowed and paid the Sum of *Twenty-five Shillings* a Day each, for the Time they shall be employed in that Service."

The House adjourned till Monday Ten o'Clock.

Monday, March 10, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

AS the Exigency of Affairs, and the Precaution that ought to be used for the Preservation and safe Custody of Things of such general Concernment as the publick Records, renders it altogether imprudent to suffer the Records at *Burlington*, to remain any longer in that Place : I would recommend it to you to pass a Bill with all possible Dispatch, to authorize some Person or Persons to remove them from thence, and to deposit them in some Place of greater Safety.

Haddonfield, March 10, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which being read and considered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Eldridge*, Mr. *Moore*s, and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for the Purpose mentioned in His Excellency's Message ; whereupon Mr. *Eldridge* brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for Preservation of*

the publick Records of the State of New-Jersey ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Newbold*, pursuant to Leave given, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to exempt ten Men, to be employed at the Union Salt-Works, from Service in the Militia* : which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*, as follows :

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* do wait on the House of Assembly, and acquaint them, that it is Matter of great Concern to this House to be under a Necessity of denying their Assent to any Request of the House of Assembly : But they conceive the publick Money cannot legally be drawn out of the Treasury, nor appropriated without a Law for the Purpose, or the Assent of the Legislature signified in some other Way. They would, with the utmost Care, avoid any Act that might have the least Tendency to infringe the Rights of the House of Assembly ; and they think themselves bound to guard their own Rights with equal Caution. The Placing of *One Hundred and Twenty-five Pounds* to the Credit of the late Treasurer, for “ six Months Service as Treasurer,” in the Account reported from the Joint-Committees of both Houses, and approved by the House of Assembly, is an Appropriation to which the Assent of this House was never given, nor even asked. The House is, indeed, informed, by the Message from the Assembly of *Saturday* last, that this Sum allowed to the late Treasurer “ was in Consideration of a “ Promise made him by the Assembly at *Burlington*, upon his taking upon him “ the Execution of the Office, and was stipulated to be in Lieu of all Perquisites “ allowed former Treasurers.” How far it was proper for the Assembly to make such a Promise without the Assent of the Council, is submitted to their Consideration. The accustomed Salaries to Treasurers of this State have not exceeded £. 40. per Annum to each of them, when there were two, and the Salary given in the Support Bill for the present Year, when there is but one, is £. 50. What Sum may be due to the late Treasurer for extraordinary Services, and in Lieu of Perquisites, the House have had no Opportunity of judging with any Degree of Precision, not having had the Circumstances laid before them : And it is worthy of Remark, that neither this Promise nor the Stipulation upon which it was made, was ever intimated to this House till after the Account of the said late Treasurer was stated, reported and approved by the House of Assembly ; and then was communicated in a Manner that seemed to imply that the Concurrence of this House was not necessary, or that it must follow of Course without their Agency. But, as they are the Representatives of the People, and the Guardians of the Rights and Privileges of their Constituents, in equal Degree with the House of Assembly, and, in all Respects, a free and independent Branch of the Legislature, they apprehend it is not only their Right, but their indispensable Duty to guard against the Appropriation of any of the publick Money till they shall be fully satisfied of the Propriety and Utility of such Appropriation : They cannot therefore concur in the Order for delivering up the said late Treasurer’s Bond, till sufficient Reasons shall appear to convince them that the Allowance of *One Hundred and Twenty-five Pounds*, for the short Time he held the Treasury, will be a proper Appropriation of so much of the publick Money.

That as to the *Eight Hundred Pounds* paid to Mr. *Denny* by the late Treasurer, the House may possibly have misconceived the Matter. But as the Resolution in which they concurred for paying Money to Mr. *Denny*, respected only the purchasing Arms for a Number of Men enlisted in Colonel *Potter*’s Battalion, which Order they supposed to be satisfied by a preceding Article in the said Treasurer’s Account ; and as this Charge of *Eight Hundred Pounds*, is of some Weeks later

Date

Date than the marching of Colonel *Potter's* Battalion, the House conceived it to be a proper Object of Inquiry ; and would submit to the Consideration of the House of Assembly, the Propriety of reducing Resolutions for Grants, of so important a Nature, to Laws, as soon as it can conveniently be done.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, March 11, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for Preservation of the publick Records of the State of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

Mr. *Buck* has Leave of Absence till To-morrow Morning.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* have Leave to bring in a Bill to prevent the distilling of Wheat and Rye into spiritous Liquors.

Mr. *Mebehn*, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act for establishing Magazines of Arms, Ammunition and Warlike Stores, &c.* reported the same with several Amendments ; which being read, with the Amendments in their Places ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for Preservation of the publick Records of the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Buck* do carry the same to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Brown* reported, that Mr. *Buck* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Manning*, pursuant to Leave given him, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat and Rye, &c.* which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

AS the best Laws are of little Avail to the Happiness of Society unless faithfully executed ; and the most salutary Measures in Danger of losing their intended Utility, unless duly expedited in their Execution ; and there is at present, and will continue to be, during the Invasion of this State by the Enemy, a greater Necessity than in Times of Peace and Tranquility for an executive Body, vested with such Powers and Authorities as may appear requisite for the publick Safety, and which cannot at present be legally exercised by any Person or Persons in the State : I would therefore recommend it to you, in Conjunction with the other Branch of
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the Legislature, to appoint a President, and, in his Absence, a Vice-President, with a Council consisting of twelve, five of whom to be a Quorum, with the following Powers and Authorities, and such farther Power and Authority as the Legislature may think necessary for the salutary Purposes thereby intended, to be exercised for the Space of six Months (unless sooner repealed by the Legislature) and no longer, *to wit*,

That every Member of such Council shall be a Justice of the Peace for the whole State, but not obliged to act as such in any civil Cause.

That the President, and in his Absence the Vice-President, with the said Council, five of whom to be a Quorum, shall supply every Vacancy in any Office occasioned by Death, Resignation, Removal or otherwise; which Officer so appointed shall be removable by the legislative Council and Assembly in Joint-Meeting, at the next Session of Assembly thereafter, without any Impeachment; but if not then removed, shall thereafter be only removable in such Manner as he would have been had he been originally appointed in the Manner directed by the Constitution.

That the said President, and in his Absence the Vice-President, with the said Council, five of whom to be a Quorum, shall correspond with the Congress and the other States, and transact Business with the Officers of Government civil and military; and prepare such Business as may appear to them necessary to lay before the General Assembly.

That they be authorized to apprehend all Persons suspected of dangerous Designs against the State, and them to commit to any Gaol within the State, taking the Examinations of Witnesses respecting the Persons suspected, and transmitting in Writing to the Officer charged with their Custody, the Cause of their Caption and Detention.

That they cause the Laws to be faithfully executed, and expedite as far as may be the Execution of such Measures as may be resolved upon by both Houses.

That they have Power to recommend it to the Speaker to call together the General Assembly when necessary, before the Day to which they shall stand adjourned.

That they be authorized to call out such and so many of the Militia of this State as they shall think necessary to aid and assist them in carrying their lawful Orders and Directions into Execution, when the civil Magistrate cannot otherwise execute them, as well as by Way of Guard for their own Security and Defence, as often as the Exigency of Affairs shall so require.

That the said President and Council shall have a Secretary, and keep fair Books of their Proceedings, wherein any Counsellor may enter his Dissent, with his Reasons for dissenting.

Haddonfield, March 11, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Message from the Council of Yesterday was read the second Time, whereupon,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Newbold* do wait on the Council, and, in answer to their Message of Yesterday, acquaint them, that this House is fully sensible of the Necessity of the Concurrence of their House at all Times in order to a legal Disposition of the publick Money, and would doubtless have applied to the Council in the Case referred to in their Message, had it been in their Power; but being informed that there was not a sufficient Number in Town to do Business at that Time, the House was under the Necessity of making the best Bargain they could with the late Treasurer, especially as they understood that the Council had not accepted his Security, which of Course left the late Treasurer at Liberty with

with Respect to his Acceptance of the Office, and which he positively refused upon any lower Conditions than the Sum mentioned in the Account.

The Danger of having an Office of such Importance vacant, and the publick Money thereby exposed at a Time when the Enemy were marching through the State, will, we hope, justify the Measure, not only in the Opinion of the good People we represent, but also in the Opinion of the Council themselves, when fully informed, and sufficiently exculpate this House from the implied Censure of a Design of infringing on the Rights of Council; that the Application to Council since the Meeting of the Legislature at this Place was omitted, has not been owing to Design, but to Want of Recollection only.

The Council has misconceived the Matter as to the Payment of the £. 800. to Mr. *Denny*; for although the Resolution in which they concurred for paying the Money is of an earlier Date than a Marching of a Part of Colonel *Potter's* Battalion, yet a very considerable Part of that Battalion under Major *Taylor* marched at or about the Time the said Charge is dated, and the preceding Article referred to by the Council in their Message was a Sum drawn for paying the Bounties, &c. to the Men enlisted for four Months, or until the first of *April*; but, on Account of the late Treasurer's Resignation, Mr. *Denny* doubted whether he would pay it, although authorized by Law, unless by express Order of the House.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for establishing Magazines of Arms, Ammunition and Warlike Stores in the several Counties of this State; and to postpone the sinking so much of the Quotas of the Sinking Fund Tax for the Years 1776 and 1777 as may be necessary for defraying the Expence thereof*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Eldridge* and Mr. *Moore*s do carry the Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Eldridge* reported, that Mr. *Moore*s and himself delivered the Bill to them entrusted to the President in Council.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for granting a Sum in Gross, to be paid to the Secretary for all Commissions to Militia Officers, Justices and Coroners*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Board* do carry the Bill to the Council for Concurrence.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, March 12, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Manning* reported, that Mr. *Board* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

His Excellency's Message of Yesterday, recommending to this House, in "Conjunction with the other Branch of the Legislature, to appoint a President, or, in his Absence, a Vice-President, with a Council consisting of twelve, five of whom

“to be a Quorum, with certain Powers and Authorities in the said Message mentioned, or such others as the Legislature may think necessary for the salutary Purposes thereby intended,” &c. was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Peterfon* do wait on the Council and acquaint them, that this House desire a free Conference with the Council on the subject Matter of the said Message; and desire them to appoint the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Wetherby* reported, that Mr. *Peterfon* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for granting a Sum in Gross to the Secretary for Commissions to Militia Officers, Justices and Coroners*, was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Price*.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye, and other Grain*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Council-Chamber, March 12, 1777.

THE House having taken into Consideration the Message from the House of Assembly of this Morning, together with the Message from His Excellency the Governor therein referred to,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Scudder*, Mr. *Symmes*, Mr. *Paterfon* and Mr. *Cooper*, together with such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on the subject Matter of their Message of this Morning; and that the Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference; that the said Committees meet at the House of *Thomas Smith*, at twelve o’Clock this Day; and that Mr. *Fell* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith, and desire them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose.

Which Message being read and considered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Bogart*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Vandike*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Wetherby*, and Mr. *Mehelm*, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with the Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the Message of this House to the Council of this Morning, and His Excellency the Governor’s Message of Yesterday; that Mr. Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference; and that Mr. *Eldridge* and Mr. *Newbold* do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith; and that the Committee of this House will attend at the Time and Place appointed by the Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Paterfon*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 12, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Paterfon* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence to the said Amendments.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Camp*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Horses, Cattle and Sheep running at Large where Fences have been destroyed by the Enemy*, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, March 13, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the Council on the subject Matter of His Excellency's Message of the 11th Instant, made the following Report ; to which the House agreed :

YOUR Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the Honourable Council on the subject Matter of His Excellency's Message of the 11th Instant to the House of Assembly, beg Leave to report.

1. That the Conferees are unanimously of Opinion, that in the present Situation of publick Affairs, it is highly expedient and necessary to invest, by Law, His Excellency the Governor and a Council, consisting of twelve, five of whom to be a Quorum, with the Authorities and Powers expressed in His Excellency's Message, to be exercised for the Space of six Months, unless sooner revoked by the Legislature, and no longer.

2. That such Council should be composed of Persons selected out of the Council and Assembly.

JOHN STEVENS, *Chairman*,
JOHN COMBS.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, with the Amendments in their Places made thereto by the Council, was read ; and the Question being put, whether this House do agree to the said Amendments ? It passed in the Affirmative, excepting that Part of the 54th Section, beginning at the 15th Line in said Section at the Word *And*, to the End of the said Section, which is rejected by this House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Hathorne* do carry the Bill to the Council and acquaint them therewith ; and also that this House have annexed two further Amendments to the said Bill, to which they desire the Concurrence of the Council.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye, and other Grain*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Buck* do carry the same to the Council for Concurrence.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 13, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Fell* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and acquaint them, that this House has receded from that Part of their Amendment to the said Bill, which was rejected by the House of Assembly ; and that this House has agreed to the two Amendments made by the House of Assembly to the Amendment of this House.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That the said Bill, with the Amendments agreed to by both Houses, be re-engrossed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent Horses, Cattle and Sheep running at Large where the Troops have destroyed Fences, &c.* was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Dick*.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Buck* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Brown* reported, that Mr. *Hathorne* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Mehelm*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for investing the Governor and a Council of twelve, with certain Powers, &c. therein mentioned, for a limited Time* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Friday, March 14, 1777.

The House met.

The House being of Opinion that the Loan-Office Money lately removed from this State to *Baltimore* in *Maryland*, should be sent for in order that the same may be signed and delivered to the Loan-Officers in such Counties as have not received their Quota of the said Money ;

Resolved,

That *John Stevens*, jun. Esq. the present Treasurer of this State, do employ some suitable Person or Persons to bring the said Money into this State, to be lodged in the Treasury till the same can be signed ; and that this House will provide for Payment as well of the Expence of carrying the said Money to *Baltimore*, as for bringing the same back to this State.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Board* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence in this Resolution.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence to the said Amendments.

Which Bill, with the Amendments of the Council in their Places, was read ; on the Question the House agreed to all the Amendments made by the Council.

Ordered,

That the said Bill as amended be re-engrossed.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

I AM to acquaint you that Colonel *David Potter* declines accepting the Office of Brigadier-General in our Militia, and has returned his Commission, assigning for Reason his Readiness to serve in his present Capacity, but his Inability to discharge the other Office suitably to its Weight and Importance, and the great Inconvenience to which he would expose himself by his Absence from Home on Account of some important Contracts, which indispensably require his personal Attendance.

I am further to inform you that *Samuel Tuthill*, has resigned his Office as one
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of the Judges of the Inferior Court of *Morris* County, and of Justice of the Peace, by Reason of his declining State of Health, and a Multiplicity of additional Business, occasioned by the Death of several near Connections.

Haddonfield, March 14, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting of both Houses.

The Re-engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for better regulating the Militia*, with the Amendments made thereto by the Council and this House, was read and compared; on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Affirmative, as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. Board,	Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Mehelm,	Mr. Mickle,
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Coxe,	Mr. Bassett,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Wetherby,
Mr. Moores,	Mr. Newbold,	Mr. Eldridge,
Mr. Drake,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. Holmes.
Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Harris,	
Mr. Brown,	Mr. Bowen,	
Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Buck,	
Mr. Bogart,	Mr. Hathorne.	

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That the Speaker sign the same;

And that Mr. Mehelm and Mr. Harris do carry the Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that the same is passed by this House.

The Bill re-engrossed, entitled, *An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Newbold and Mr. Holmes do carry the Bill to the Council.

Mr. Camp reported, that Mr. Board and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

Mr. Newbold reported, that Mr. Holmes and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the President in Council.

Mr. Mehelm reported, that Mr. Harris and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to exempt ten Men, to be employed at the Union Salt Works in this State, from Service in the Militia*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Fell.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. Fell do wait on the House of Assembly, and acquaint them, that this House have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Morning respecting the Loan-Office Money lately removed from this State to *Baltimore* in *Maryland*.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for investing the Governor and a Council, consisting of twelve, with certain Powers, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

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Ordered,

Ordered,
That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for investing the Governor and a Council, consisting of twelve, with certain Powers therein mentioned for a limited Time*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,
That the same do pass.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to exempt ten Men, to be employed at the Union Salt Works in this State, from Service in the Militia*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,
That the same do pass.

Ordered,
That Mr. Manning and Mr. Drake do carry the said Bills to the Council for their Concurrence.

The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from the Governor, enclosing a Letter he had received from *David Rittenhouse*, Esq. Vice-President of the Council of Safety at *Philadelphia*, desiring the Assistance of this State in forwarding the Fortifications erecting at *Billingsport*, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cooper:

Ordered, Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.
THAT Mr. Cooper do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the regulating of Constables*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Mehelm, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to authorize the present Treasurer to sign such of the Bills of Credit of this State as were directed by Law to be signed by the late Treasurers, and were by them omitted*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill sent from the Council, entitled, *An Act for the regulating of Constables*, was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

Resolved,
That the Treasurer of this State pay to Colonel *John Cleves Symmes*, for the Use of *Benjamin Halfey*, Pay-Master to the Battalions ordered to be raised in the four Months Service, the Sum of *One Hundred and Forty-six Pounds Five Shillings*, being for the Bounty of sixty-five Men enlisted in Captain *Brodrick's* Company; and that the Receipt of the said *John Cleves Symmes* or *Benjamin Halfey* be a sufficient Voucher for Payment thereof; and that Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Wetherby* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

It having been represented to the House that Major *Hall* and Lieutenant *Keen*, with two Sergeants and twenty-four Privates of the first Battalion of *Salem County* Militia, had been ordered by General *Putnam* as a Guard to convey several Tory Prisoners from *Princeton* to *Haddonsfield*, and that the said Service had necessarily detained said Party three Days longer than the Time for which they had drawn either Pay or Rations; and the Officer having prayed an Allowance of Pay and Rations for said Time;

Resolved,
That the Treasurer of this State pay to *Nicholas Keen*, the Sum of *Twenty Pounds*

Pounds for the Use of said Party, whose Receipt shall discharge the Treasurer for so much of the publick Money in his Hands.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Wetherby* wait on the Council and request their Concurrence with this Resolution.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Preservation of the publick Records of the State of New-Jersey*, is passed by the Council without any Amendment.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Sinnickson*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Sinnickson* do acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for Support of Government of the State of New-Jersey, to commence the 27th Day of August 1776; and to end the second Tuesday in October 1777; and to discharge the publick Debts and contingent Charges thereof*, is passed by the Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Hand*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Hand* do acquaint the House of Assembly, that this House hath concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Afternoon, respecting the Payment of *Twenty Pounds* to *Nicholas Keen*.

Mr. *Bowen* reported, that Mr. *Wetherby* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* acquaint the House of Assembly, that this House have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Afternoon, respecting the Payment of *One Hundred and Forty-six Pounds Five Shillings*, to Col. *Symmes*, for the Use of *Benjamin Halfey*.

A Petition was presented by *William Gamble*, complaining of an undue Advantage taken of him by his Uncle *Thomas Gamble*, in a Bargain respecting a Tract of Land, during the Minority of the Petitioner, and praying Redress; which was read,

Ordered,

That the same be deferred for further Consideration.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Eight o'Clock.

Saturday, March 15, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to authorize the present Treasurer to sign such of the Bills of Credit of this State as were directed by Law to be signed by the late Treasurers, and were by them omitted*; was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Bill sent from the Council, entitled, *An Act for the regulating of Constables*, was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Brown* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that it is passed by this House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to authorize the present Treasurer to sign such of the Bills of Credit of this State as were by Law directed to be signed by the late Treasurers, &c.* was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Manning* do carry the same to the Council for Concurrence.

The Bill from the Council, entitled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, with the Amendments made thereto in this House, was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same as amended do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Brown* do carry the Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence to the said Amendments.

Mr. *Drake* reported, that Mr. *Brown* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Letter from the Governor, enclosing a Letter to him from the Vice-President of the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, was read the second Time,

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this House that His Excellency the Governor be requested to afford such Aid to the Committee of Safety of *Pennsylvania*, as the Situation of the Affairs of this State will admit of, towards completing the Fortification erecting at *Billingsport*, on the Conditions proposed by the said Committee.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Basset* and Mr. *Moore*s do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence with the said Resolution.

Mr. *Basset* reported, that Mr. *Moore*s and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows:

Gentlemen,

IT being of great Importance to have our Militia completely officered, and especially to have its full Number of Field-Officers; I find it so deficient in that Respect, as to think it necessary to acquaint you with the State of the Battalions in that Situation, that the Vacancies may be supplied as soon as possible.

The Battalion of *Bergen*, including the Militia of the whole County, has no Lieutenant-Colonel, though it consists of upwards of fourteen Hundred Men, and ought indeed to be divided into two Battalions.

Colonel

Colonel *Thomas*, of one of the *Essex* Battalions, is removed into *Morris* County; and Mr. *Potter*, the Lieutenant-Colonel of it, is, as I am informed, in the Continental Service; and it has no Major.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Ward* of another of those Battalions, is a Prisoner at *New-York*, and it is also without a Major; and Colonel *Van Cortland* being Colonel Commandant both of that and another Battalion, renders it the more necessary to have each of them complete in its other Officers.

Both the first and second Battalions of *Middlesex* are destitute of Colonels; and if Colonel *Nelson* accepts his Appointment of Brigadier-General, the third will be in the same Predicament; and the Lieutenant-Colonel of it Mr. *Lost* of *Spottswood*, is said to have taken a Protection from the Enemy.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Thomas Seabrook*, of the first Battalion of *Monmouth*, is said to have refused taking the Oaths to the State; and, if so, has forfeited his Commission; and the Major, Mr. *Holmes*, is High Sheriff of the County, which two Offices are incompatible, as no Sheriff ought to leave his County—He ought therefore to make his Election—In this Battalion there is no second Major.

Mr. *Brearley* is Colonel of the second Battalion, but is engaged in the Continental Service.

The first Major is *Elisha Lawrence*, Esq. who, I am informed, has accepted the Enemy's Protection, and refused taking the Oaths to Government; and this Battalion is also without a second Major.

Of the third Battalion *Daniel Hendrickson*, Esq. is Colonel, but is very infirm, and said to be removed into *Upper Freehold*, while the Battalion consists of the Inhabitants of *Shrewsbury*.

Isaac Smith, Esq. is Colonel of the first Battalion of *Hunterdon*, and is lately appointed second Justice of the Supreme Court, which disqualifies him from acting in his military Capacity.

The Lieutenant-Colonel of this Battalion is *Abraham Hunt*, Esq. who refuses to act; *Joseph Phillips* is the only Major. If the above Vacancies in this Battalion are supplied according to Rank, *Joab Houton* and Captain *Van Cleave* are the two eldest Captains; but the latter, as I am informed, refused going into the Service in his Turn, as being engaged in the Loan-Office Business.

The two *Trenton* and two *Maidenhead* Companies ought to be formed into two Companies only.

The first Battalion of *Suffex* has no Major; and the first Battalion of *Cumberland* is in the same Condition.

Colonel *Charles Read*, of one of the *Burlington* Battalions, is in such a Situation with Respect to his having submitted to the Enemy, that it is not probable he will act any longer in that Office.

Haddonfield, March 15, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message was read, and referred to a Joint-Meeting.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Mebeln* be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to burn the cancelled Money in the Treasurer's Hands, and make Report to the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Hathorne* and Mr. *Buck* do wait on the Council and desire them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Hathorne* reported, that Mr. *Buck* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes do wait on the House of Assembly, and acquaint them, that the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day respecting the Request from the Council of Safety of *Pennsylvania* is concurred in by this House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Hand.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. Fell and Mr. Paterfon, or either of them, be a Committee to join with a Committee of the House of Assembly to burn the cancelled Money in the Treasurer's Hands, and make Report thereof to this House; and that the said Committees meet for that Purpose at six o'Clock this Evening at the House of *Hugh Creighton*; and that Mr. Hand do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Mr. Dick, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act for granting an annual Salary to the Secretary, in Lieu of his Fees on Commissions*, &c. reported the same with several Amendments; which Bill being read, with the Amendments in their Places; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cooper.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. Cooper do acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for investing the Governor and a Council of twelve, with certain Powers therein mentioned for a limited Time*, is passed by this House.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for granting an annual Salary to the Secretary of this State, in Lieu of his Fees on Commissions of Justices, Coroners, and Militia Officers*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Mehelm and Mr. Manning do carry the Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. Mehelm reported, that Mr. Manning and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, March 17, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. Brown, from the Committee on publick Accounts, made the following Report:

Dr.

Captain JACOB DUNN,

Cr.

By Account allowed by the
Committee for raising a
Company of Minute-Men, £. 30: 0: 0

Dr.

DR. GEORGE GREEN,

CR.

To Cash received of *John
Dennis and Alexander
Chambers,* £. 143: 0:0
Balance due *G. Green,* 11: 11: 9

By Amount of his Account
for a Company of Militia
in the Continental Ser-
vice, - £. 154: 11: 9

DR. Captain HENRY STEVENS of *Cape-May,*

CR.

By Amount of his Pay Roll
for a Company kept at
Cape-May, from *July 12,*
to *December 1, 1776,* £. 316: 18: 2

DR. MEMUCAN HUGHES, Commissary of Captain *Stevens's* Company,

CR.

By Amount of his Accounts
as Commissary, and muf-
tering Cap. *Stevens's* Com-
pany, 207: 2: 3
By House Rent and Fire
Wood for said Company, 6: 7: 6
£. 213: 9: 9

DR. EPHRAIM HARRIS, Esq.

CR.

By the Sum of *Five Pounds,*
being for a Gun and Ac-
coutrements lost in *Jere-
miah Saye's* Company, £. 5: 0: 0

DR. Captain JONATHAN LIPPINCOTT,

CR.

By so much allowed him for
a Gun damaged, 3: 0: 0
By ditto for one ditto lost, 1: 15: 0
£. 4: 15: 0

DR. Captain SETH WHILLDIN,

CR.

By so much allowed him for
Bounty, and Sundries paid
to four of his Soldiers,
which enlisted afterwards
into the Continental Army, £. 6: 14: 10

DR. THOMAS SMITH,

CR.

By Rent of a Room for the
Assembly, from the 29th
of *January* to the 16th of
March, six Weeks and a
half, at 10s. - £. 3: 5: 0
By 3½ Cords of Wood at
30s. - - 5: 5: 0
By sawing ditto, - 0: 11: 9
By 7 lb. Candles at 2s. 0: 14: 0
£. 9: 15: 9

112 VOTES, &c. of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of *New-Jersey*.

Dr.	CHARLES PETTIT, Esq.	Cr.	
			By Sundries per Account, £. 33 : 12 : 6
Dr.	PETER TALLMAN, Esq.	Cr.	
			By Cash paid an Expreſs for carrying a Letter to <i>Tren-ton</i> , - - - £. 0 : 10 : 0
Dr.	His Excellency WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esq.	Cr.	
To Cash received of <i>John Dennis</i> , -	£. 500 : 0 : 0		By fundry Charges by Account, - £. 456 : 8 : 0
			By Cash paid into the Treasury, - 43 : 12 : 0
			£. 500 : 0 : 0
Dr.	JOHN GRIFFITH,	Cr.	
			By bringing the Assembly Chest from <i>Burlington</i> , per Account, - £. 1 : 10 : 0
Dr.	THOMAS DENNY, Esq.	Cr.	
			By bringing the Statute Books from <i>Burlington</i> , per Account, - £. 0 : 10 : 0
Dr.	JOHN HART, Esq.	Cr.	
			By ſummoning the Assembly, as per Account, £. 18 : 15 : 0
Dr.	JOHN CLEMENT,	Cr.	
			By Sundries per Account, £. 3 : 9 : 1
To	<i>Joſeph Matlack</i> , Sergeant at Arms, for warning fundry Members to attend this Houſe,		£. 8 : 10 : 10

THE Committee of Accounts having examined the above Accounts and Vouchers, do report the ſame.

ABIA BROWN,
CHARLES CONE,
EDMUND WETHERBY.

A Meſſage from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 17, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* do wait on the Houſe of Aſſembly, and acquaint them, that this Houſe hath concurred in the Reſolution of their Houſe of the 28th of *February*, contained in their Meſſage received this Morning, reſpecting the Payment of *Fifty Pounds One Shilling* to *Samuel Miller, jun.* as a Bounty for the manufacturing one Thouſand and one Pounds of Salt-Petre.

A Meſſage from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* do acquaint the Houſe of Aſſembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for eſtabliſhing Magazines of Arms, Ammunition and Warlike Stores, in the ſeveral Counties of this State, &c.* is paſſed by this Houſe.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be inspected by the Speaker and Clerk, to be laid before the Assembly at the next Sitting before the same be printed, and that they lay before the House their Charge for that Service.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Eldridge* and Mr. *Buck* do wait on the Council and desire to know if they have any further Business before them, if not, this House intends to adjourn this Evening.

Ordered,

That 400 Copies of the Militia Law be printed for the Use of the Militia Officers, and sent as soon as possible as follows :

To the Members of	<i>Hunterdon</i> , 52	<i>Monmouth</i> 32
	<i>Suffex</i> 32	<i>Burlington</i> 32
	<i>Somerset</i> 28	<i>Gloucester</i> 32
	<i>Morris</i> 32	<i>Salem</i> 26
	<i>Bergen</i> 26	<i>Cumberland</i> 28
	<i>Essex</i> 32	<i>Cape-May</i> 12
	<i>Middlesex</i> 32	
To the Governor for himself and the Generals,		8
		<hr/> 400

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 17, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Fell* do acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to exempt ten Men, to be employed at the Union Salt-Works in this State, from Service in the Militia*, is passed by this House without any Amendment.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c. and being returned, Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Buck*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Bogart*, Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Price*, and such other Members as choose to attend, be a Committee to join with a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the forming and agreeing upon such Resolutions as may be thought necessary to be carried into Effect by the Governor and a Council of Safety lately established in this State, and on the subject Matter of General *Maxwell's* Letter respecting the Pay of the Militia, and Men in the four Months Service ; and that the Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Vandike* and Mr. *Peterfon* do wait on the Council and desire they will appoint a Committee for the Purposes aforesaid, with Time and Place of Meeting.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 17, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to authorize the present Treasurer to sign such of the unsigned Bills of Credit of this State, as were directed by Law to be signed by the late Treasurers, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, is passed this House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 17, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Sinnickson*, Mr. *Cooper*, Mr. *Hand* and Mr. *Symmes*, or any two of them, and such other Members as choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with the Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on forming and agreeing upon such Resolutions as may be thought necessary to be carried into Effect by the Governor and a Council of Safety lately established in this State; and also on the subject Matter of General *Maxwell's* Letter respecting the Pay of the Militia and Men in the four Months Service; that the Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference; and that the said Conference be held at the House of *Thomas Smith* at 7 o'Clock this Evening.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Fell* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 17, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for granting an annual Salary to the Secretary of this State in Lieu of his Fees on Commissions of Justices, Coroners and Militia Officers*; and the Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, are passed by this House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, March 17, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* wait on the House of Assembly and acquaint them, that the Council having no further Business before them which they apprehend requires immediate Dispatch, have no Objection to an Adjournment this Evening.

There being a Necessity for the Committees of Council and Assembly to meet again To-morrow,

The House adjourned till To-morrow Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, March 18, 1777.

The House met.

The Committees taking into Consideration General *Maxwell's* pressing Application for the Pay of the four Months Men and Militia of this State, and finding it impracticable from the present State of the Treasury to discharge the Arrears due to the Men;

Resolved,

That His Excellency the Governor be desired to apply to Congress on the Subject, and urge the Necessity of their pointing out an Expedient for satisfying the Demands of the Soldiery, and allaying the Clamours at present subsisting among them for Want of their Pay.

The House adjourned till Two, P. M.

The House met.

Large Sums of Money being due to the Militia of *New-Jersey*, who now are and for some Time past have been in the Continental Service from the United States of *America*;

Resolved,

That the Delegates of this State in the Honourable the Congress, be desired to obtain from the Congress the Sum of *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* for discharging the same; and that the said Delegates pay the Money by them to be received in
Manner

Manner following, *to wit*, To the Speaker of this House *Twenty Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of the Counties of *Hunterdon, Burlington, Somerset, Monmouth and Middlesex*: To Colonel *Caleb Camp, Esq. Thirty Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia and Men enlisted in the four Months Service of this State: To the Honourable *Andrew Sinnickson Esq. Ten Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of *Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland*: To *Jacob Drake, Esq. Ten Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of *Suffex, Essex, Morris and Bergen*; and to the Treasurer of this State the remaining *Thirty Thousand Dollars*, whose respective Receipts for the said Sums so by them respectively to be received, shall be to the said Delegates a full Discharge for the same: And in case any Deficiency shall happen in any of the Sums so allotted for the Payment of the said Militia and Men enlisted in the four Months Service, in the Hands of either of the Persons appointed to pay the same, such Person be hereby authorized to draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Sum so deficient; provided such Draught does not exceed the said *Thirty Thousand Dollars* paid into the Treasury as aforesaid; and that the Receipt of such Person be to the said Treasurer a full Discharge for the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Newbold* and Mr. *Manning* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence with the said Resolution.

Resolved,

That the Treasurer of this State pay to the Honourable *John Witherspoon, Abraham Clark, Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant and Jonathan Elmer, Esquires, Delegates in Congress*, the Sums due to each of them severally for their Attendance in Congress to the 13th Instant, as certified per Bill from each of those Gentlemen allowed by the Vice-President of the Council or Speaker of the House of Assembly; and that the Treasurer take Receipts for the same, which shall be sufficient Vouchers to account with the Legislature of this State for the Money so paid.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Newbold* and Mr. *Manning* do wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence with this Resolution.

Mr. *Newbold* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself had obeyed the Orders of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Fell*, informing the House that the Council have concurred in their Resolution of this Afternoon respecting the Application to Congress for the Sum of *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia and Men enlisted in the four Months Service in this State: And also in the Resolution respecting the Payment of the Delegates of this State in Congress, the Sums due to each of them for their Attendance in Congress, &c.

The House adjourned to meet at *Haddonfield* on *Wednesday* the 21st Day of May next.

HADDONFIELD, Wednesday, May 7, 1777.

THE Governor and Council having advised the Speaker to summon the General Assembly to meet here on this Day, some of the Members met, and there not being a sufficient Number to proceed on Business, the Speaker adjourned the House till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, May 8, 1777.

The House met,

And there not being a sufficient Number met to proceed on Business, adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday,

Friday, May 9, 1777.

The House met,

And there appearing a sufficient Number of Members to proceed to Business,
Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Dick* do wait on His Excellency and acquaint him therewith, and that the House are ready to receive any Thing he shall please to lay before them.

Mr. *Dick* reported, that Mr. *Tallman* and himself had waited on His Excellency according to Order, who was pleased to say the House should hear from him in a short Time.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

THE Supreme Court of this State, and several of the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas and General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, not having been held as usual, by Reason of the Irruption of the Enemy, no Time should be lost in passing an Act to revive and continue all Process and Proceedings in the said Courts as effectually as if they had statedly met and continued the said Process and Proceedings without Delay or Interruption.

Haddonfield, May 7, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Holmes*, one of the Commissioners appointed by this State to meet with the Commissioners from the States of *New-York*, *Pennsylvania*, *Delaware*, *Maryland* and *Virginia*, at *York-Town*, for the Purpose of considering of, and forming a System of Regulation adapted to those States, to regulate the Price of Labour, of Manufactures, and of internal Produce within these States, and of Goods imported from foreign Parts (excepting military Stores) to be laid before the Legislature of each State, made Report of the Proceedings of the said Commissioners; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

His Excellency's Message of this Morning was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Dick*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for the Purpose mentioned in the said Message.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, May 9, 1777.

I HEREWITH transmit you a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. President of the Congress, of the 16th of *April* last, enclosing Resolves of Congress, recommending it to the Legislatures of the several States to complete their respective Battalions.

I also lay before you the Returns of the four Battalions raised in this State for the Service of the United States, by which you will see the Necessity of the most speedy Exertions for completing their Complement, either by adopting the Measures recommended by Congress for that Purpose, or by devising such other Ways and Means as you shall think the best calculated for supplying the Deficiency.

I also submit to your Consideration a Letter from Brigadier-General *Heard*, which amounts to a Demonstration of the Insufficiency of our Militia Law for the Purposes thereby intended.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which,

Which, with the several Papers therewith sent, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from *Timothy Hunt* and six other Inhabitants of the Township of *Hopewell*, in the County of *Hunterdon*, setting forth, that their Waggon and Horses had been pressed into the Continental Service, for removing Stores from this State to *Pennsylvania*, the second of *December 1776*; and that they had not received any Pay for their Services; and praying the House to point out a Way for their Redress; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, May 9, 1777.

THE Enemy being determined to contaminate the *British* Name with every Species of Infamy rather than abandon their frantick Purpose of enslaving a free and unoffending People, have lately adopted the base and unmanly Practice of encouraging our own rebellious Subjects to kidnap the Members of our Legislature. In Pursuance of this System, a Band of Rebels of the County of *Bergen*, have surprized in his Bed, and with brutal Violence hurried to *New-York*, the Honourable *John Fell*, Esq. an aged and venerable Member of the Legislative Council of this State; and there delivered him into the Hands of the *British* Tormentors. The Treatment he is like to meet with, we may easily image to ourselves from the most authentick Proofs how others of our People, less obnoxious to their Resentment, have been used by them. To check the farther Prosecution of this dishonourable Plan, and in Justice to the unfortunate Sufferer himself, (of whose meritorious Services to his Country none of us are ignorant) as well as in Vindication of the Honour of this State, I would earnestly recommend it to you, in Conjunction with the Council, to consent by Resolution, that the Governor and Council of Safety do forthwith cause to be apprehended and imprisoned, such and so many of the *nominal* Council of his *Britannick* Majesty within this State, and disaffected to it, with as many other disaffected Persons as they shall think sufficient to induce the Enemy to release the said *John Fell*; and them to treat in like Manner as he shall be treated, until they agree either to exchange or discharge him.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, May 10, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Tallman*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Justice within this State*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

His Excellency's Message of Yesterday, with a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. of the 16th of *April* last, enclosing Resolves of Congress, recommending it to the Legislatures of the respective States to complete their Battalions, were read the second Time; and the House having considered the same, and conceiving it a Matter of great Importance to the United States, that the Battalions of this State should be speedily completed;

G g

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Camp*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Mott*, Mr. *Drake*, and Mr. *Harris*, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of said Message and Resolves; that Mr. Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference; and that Mr. *Newbold* and Mr. *Wetherby* do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Newbold* reported, that Mr. *Wetherby* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, May 10, 1777.

I HEREWITH lay before you Mr. *Hopkinson's* Account of the Expences of the Great Seal of this State, and of the Balance due to him as one of the Delegates of this State in Congress, which it concerns the Honour of the State to discharge with all convenient Dispatch.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which Message was read, and also the Account therein mentioned; which is as follows:

The STATE of NEW-JERSEY to FRANCIS HOPKINSON,		DR.
1777.	To Cash paid Mr. <i>Du Simitiere</i> for drawing a Model for the Great	
April 24.	Seal, - - - - -	£. 6: 0: 0
	To Mr. <i>Humphrys's</i> Account for Silver and making the Seal,	3: 18: 6
	To the Engraver's Account, - - - - -	25: 0: 0
	To Cash paid for Wax, &c. - - - - -	0: 3: 10
		£. 35: 2: 4
To Salary for 14 Days serving in Congress, left unpaid, at 20s.		14: 0: 0
		£. 49: 2: 4

Which being allowed by the House,

Ordered,

That the Treasurer pay the same according to a former Resolution of this House concurred in by the Council.

Ordered,

That Mr. Speaker give the Thanks of this House to Mr. *Hopkinson* for his Attention in providing the Great Seal for this State.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Sinnickson*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder*, Mr. *Symmes*, Mr. *Condict* and Mr. *Paterfon*, or any three of them, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to join a Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the Governor's Message to the House of Assembly of Yesterday, with a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq. of the 16th of April last, and the Resolves of Congress recommending it to the Legislatures of the respective States to

to complete their Battalions; that the Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference; and that the said Committees do meet in Conference at the House of *Thomas Smith* at two o'Clock this Afternoon.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sinnickson* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till Two, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Committees of Council and Assembly met in Conference; and

The House adjourned till *Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.*

Monday, May 12, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit.*

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, May 10, 1777.

MR. *Boudinot* being appointed Commissary-General of Prisoners in the Army of the United States of *America*, represents it to me as absolutely necessary for him to be immediately provided with an Account of all the Expences and Disbursements of the different States in Favour of the several Prisoners taken from the King of *Great-Britain*, in order that the Accounts may be ready for Settlement with General *Howe* whenever we shall be called upon for that Purpose—And that he is therefore instructed by His Excellency General *Washington* to beg the Favour of the Governor to order all such Accounts, as well those that have already been paid as those which are yet due, made by our State in Favour of such Prisoners, to be immediately transmitted to him, Mr. *Boudinot*, at Headquarters, with the several proper authenticated Vouchers for the same.

It is evident from the Nature of the Requisition that the Opportunity of the present Session ought not to be lost without preparing and transmitting the Accounts and Vouchers requested from this State, and as it will require some Time to collect them from different Parts, I would recommend it to you immediately to appoint a Committee for that Purpose.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Justice in this State*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Petition from *Timothy Hunt* and others, Inhabitants of *Hopewell* in *Hunterdon* County, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the Petitioners be directed first to apply to the Quarter-Master General for Pay for the Services mentioned in their Petition.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Justice in this State*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Holmes* do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr.

Mr. *Manning* reported, that Mr. *Holmes* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the Vice-President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

The House being of Opinion that the Returns made by the Colonels of the several Battalions of this State are not so satisfactory and particular as is necessary,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Buck* do wait on His Excellency and desire he will please to procure from the Colonels of the several Battalions a Return of the Names of all the Men enlisted, by whom enlisted, with the Time and Place of their Enlistment; what Number dead or deserted, with their Names, and the Time of their Death or Desertion.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Cook*, be a Committee to bring in a supplementary Act to the Act, entitled, *An Act for the better regulating the Militia*.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Buck* and himself had delivered the Message with them entrusted to His Excellency the Governor.

The Committees of Council and Assembly met in Conference respecting the Resolves of Congress recommending it to the Legislature to complete the four Battalions of this State for the Continental Service.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 12, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* do carry to the House of Assembly the Bill, entitled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Justice in this State*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, and desire their Concurrence in the said Amendments;

Whereupon the said Bill was read, with the Amendments in their Places; and, on the Question, Whether the House agrees thereto? It passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That the said Bill as amended be re-engrossed.

The Re-engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Justice in this State*, being read and compared,

Ordered,

That the Speaker sign the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Newbold* carry the Bill to the Council.

Mr. *Wetherby* reported, that Mr. *Newbold* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the Vice-President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, May 13, 1777.

The House met.

His Excellency's Message of the 9th Instant was read the second Time, recommending it to the House, in Conjunction with the Council, to consent by Resolution that the Council of Safety do forthwith cause to be apprehended and imprisoned such and so many of the nominal Council of his *Britannick* Majesty within this State, and disaffected to it; or as many other disaffected Persons as they

they may think sufficient to induce the Enemy to release the Honourable *John Fell*, Esq. lately taken in this State and carried to *New-York*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Shaffer*, Mr. *Newbold*, Mr. *Mickle*, Mr. *Vandike*, Mr. *Cook*, Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Moore*s, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the said Message, and also on the present State of the Government; that Mr. Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference; and that Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Mott* do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith, and desire them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Drake* reported, that Mr. *Mott* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Camp*, Mr. *Cook*, Mr. *Peter*son, Mr. *Vandike*, Mr. *Moore*s, Mr. *Mott*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Harris* and Mr. *Hathorne*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill at the next Sitting of Assembly, for providing Ways and Means for sinking the Bills of Credit now current in this State.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on His Excellency's Message of the 9th Instant, and Resolves of Congress of the 14th of *April* last, made the following Report, to which the House agreed:

YOUR Committee appointed to meet in Joint-Conference with a Committee of the Honourable Legislative-Council, on the subject Matter of the Governor's Message enclosing Resolutions of Congress, dated the 14th Day of *April* last, beg Leave to report:

1. That it is the Opinion of said Committees that the first two Articles recommended by Congress in said Resolutions, do not come properly under the Consideration of the Legislative Department of this State, and ought therefore to be referred wholly to the executive Branch.

2. That the third Article in said Resolutions, whereby it is recommended that any two of the Militia who shall enlist one Recruit for any of the four Regiments of this State in the Continental Service, be exempted from actual Service in the Militia during the Term of such Enlistment, ought to be complied with.

Provided, that their Freedom from actual Service shall not be construed to extend to an Exemption from a punctual Attendance upon monthly and general Trainings, or from being embodied and doing Duty in case of an Alarm within their own Counties respectively, under all the Regulations of the Militia Law.

This will appear at first View necessary, if it be considered, that at so interesting a Period as the present, the most fatal Consequences might arise from a general Neglect of military Discipline; as, in case of an Invasion, to which this State is peculiarly liable, and to which the Enemy, being acquainted with such Neglect, would be proportionably the more inclined, we should in a great Measure be deprived of that Capacity of Defence which we now so eminently possess.

Add to which, that, as we abound with Enemies within our own Borders, even a partial Relaxation in military Discipline might prove destructive to us.

3. That if any two Exempts shall enlist one Recruit for any of the four Regiments of this State in the Continental Service, they shall be free from the Payment of the Tax, which they are at present, by Law, in Consequence of their

H h

Exemption,

Exemption, subjected to; and also from actual Service in the Militia, should the Cause of Exemption cease, during the Term of Enlistment of such Recruit.

4. That the Officers of the four Battalions only, which compose the Quota of this State in the Continental Army, may be authorized to enlist any white Servants or Apprentices within the same, upon the following Conditions, *viz.* That for such as are enlisted upon the Continental Bounty only, their Masters or Mistresses shall respectively receive from the Publick, and for such as shall be entered as Substitutes, they shall be paid by the Persons engaging them, any Sum not exceeding *Twenty Pounds* for each.

5. That the imprisoning or otherwise restraining the Soldiers in the Continental Service be prohibited for any Debt not exceeding *Fifty Dollars*.

May 12, 1777.

Ordered,

Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Drake*, Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Somers*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to provide Ways and Means for completing the four Battalions ordered to be raised in this State for the Continental Service.

A Petition was presented from *George Mc Farland*, setting forth, that he was appointed an Ensign in the Levies made in this State during the Continuance of the War; that he had the Misfortune to have his Hip-bone broke or dislocated by Accident, whereby he is unable to act under the Appointment he was honoured with by this State, and praying Relief, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, May 14, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Mehelm*, from the Committee appointed the last Sitting to join a Committee of the Council to burn the cancelled Money in the Hands of the present Treasurer, reported, that the Committees had met for that Purpose at Mr. *Stevens's* on the 24th of *March* last, and burned the Sum of £. 15,534 : 10 : 9, cancelled Bills of Credit of this State.

The Bill brought in at the last Sitting, entitled, *An Act for regulating the impressing of Carriages, Horses, and other Necessaries, for the Use of the Army within this State*, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be committed to Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Mott*, Mr. *Buck*, Mr. *Dey* and Mr. *Newbold*.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 14, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Sinnickson*, Mr. *Cooper*, Mr. *Scudder* and Mr. *Hand*, or any three of them, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on the subject Matter of His Excellency's Message of the 9th Instant, as mentioned in their

their Message of Yesterday ; that the Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference ; and that the said Committees do meet in Conference at the House of *Thomas Smith* at 11 o'Clock To-morrow Morning.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, May 15, 1777.

The House met.

His Excellency's Message of the 17th of *February* last, submitting it to the Consideration of the House to provide for making an actual Survey and Map of the several Counties, Townships, Districts, Roads and Rivers in this State, except as to such Parts as can be protracted from Surveys already made, &c. was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Somers*, be a Committee to prepare an Answer to the said Message.

A Petition was presented by Captain *Samuel Ogden*, praying Pay for a Number of Arms and Accoutrements taken from the Militia to equip his Company in General *Heard's* Brigade the last Campaign, and unavoidably lost in the Service ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Mehelm*, from the Committee appointed to prepare an Answer to His Excellency's Message of the 17th of *February* last, brought in a Draught, which was read, agreed to, and engrossed, and is as follows :

Ordered,

That Mr. *Bowen* and Mr. *Board* do wait on His Excellency, and, in answer to his Message of the 17th of *February* last, inform him, that the House have no Doubt of the Utility of an accurate Map of this State ; but as an actual Survey at this Time would be impracticable, on Account of the Enemy being possessed of some Parts thereof, the House are of Opinion it had better be deferred for the present.

Mr. *Bowen* reported, that Mr. *Board* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to His Excellency.

His Excellency's Message of the 21st of *February* last, being read the second Time,

Resolved,

That the Speaker do apply to the Speakers of Assembly in the Sister States, to be furnished as soon as conveniently may be after the End of every Session, with a Copy of the Acts passed during that Session, engaging to provide them with an Impression of ours in like Manner ; and that the Legislature will provide for Payment of the necessary Expence.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Cook* wait on the Council and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Holmes* reported, that Mr. *Cook* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Conference, and also a Joint-Meeting of the Council and Assembly.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Friday, May 16, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from the Legatees of *Cornelius Johnston*, late of *Kingwood*, in the County of *Hunterdon*, deceased, setting forth, that through some Neglect or Omission of the Drawer of the Will of the said *Cornelius Johnston*, the Executors of his Will are not empowered to sell the Lands for Payment of the Legacies, though it was the Intent of the Testator that the Lands should be sold, &c. and praying the House to appoint some Persons by Law to make Sale of the Lands, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia*, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be committed to Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Somers*, Mr. *Cook* and Mr. *Manning*.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Memorial was presented by Colonel *John Coxe*, setting forth, that he is Proprietor and Conductor of several Furnaces, a Forge, and a Slitting and Rolling Mill in this State, which for some Time past have been improved in preparing Materials of various Kinds for the publick Service; that by the late Militia Act the Workmen at said Works are so frequently called away, that he is thereby rendered unable to carry on the same to Effect, &c. and praying an Exemption for four Managers and Clerks, and for about fifty Workmen for the Use of the said Iron Works; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 16, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* do acquaint the House of Assembly, that this House having taken their Message of Yesterday into Consideration, relative to the exchanging Impressions of Laws with the neighbouring States, have concurred in the Resolution contained in the said Message.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Price*, Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Mott*, be a Committee to inspect the Accounts of *John Smyth*, Esq. late Treasurer, entered on the Journals of the former Assembly, respecting a Bond taken by him for a Deficiency in the Treasury, and make Report to the House.

The Petition of the Legatees of *Cornelius Johnston*, late of *Kingwood*, in the County of *Hunterdon*, deceased, praying, for Reasons therein set forth, a Law to empower some Persons to make Sale of the Lands of the Deceased, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the said Petition do lie on the Table.

The

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Saturday, May 17, 1777.

The House met.

Resolved,

That *Thomas Denny*, Esq. do deliver such of the Arms as are in his Care belonging to the State, to the Commanding Officers of such Detachments of the Militia as are or may be ordered out in actual Service, and take the Commanding Officer's Receipt for the same, to be returned to Mr. *Denny* at the Expiration of the Time the Detachments are to serve ; and if any of the said Arms are emberzled, or negligently lost in the Service, that so much of the Wages of the Men losing them be stopped by the Officers as will make good the Loss.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Newbold* and Mr. *Peterfon* do carry the said Resolution to the Council for their Concurrence.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to collect all the Accounts relative to Prisoners, and furnish Mr. *Boudinot* with Copies thereof, to enable him to settle with General *Howe* whenever it may be necessary ; and also to collect and adjust all the publick Accounts with the Continental Congress, the States of *Pennsylvania* and *New-York*, and lay them before the Legislature at the next Sitting of Assembly, in order that a general Settlement with the Congress may be gone into relative to this State.

Resolved,

That this House will agree that the Legislature allow a reasonable Compensation for the Trouble of transacting the said Business.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Cook* and Mr. *Hathorne* do wait on the Council and desire they will appoint a Committee for the above Purposes.

Mr. *Newbold* reported, that Mr. *Peterfon* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Cook* reported, that Mr. *Hathorne* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

SEVERAL of the Counties have, since the first Election in Virtue of our new Constitution, been deprived, by Death and otherwise, of a complete Representation, both in Council and Assembly.

A Member of Council for *Middlesex* has never qualified, nor attended.

The County of *Somerſet* has lost one of it's Members in Assembly by the Lot of Mortality : So has the County of *Salem*.

By Means to which your honourable House is no Stranger, *Bergen* is deprived of one of it's Members ; and *Effex* and *Monmouth* are in the like Predicament. To the above Misfortune of *Effex* is superadded that of being bereft of the Usefulness of another Representative in your Debates, by your appointing him a Delegate in Congress, which they will consider as a Diminution of their Representation in our Legislature during the Time that he is detained from it by his Attendance in that august Assembly.

I therefore think it my Duty to remind you of the Necessity as well as Justice

of giving the Counties above enumerated, an Opportunity of supplying their respective Vacancies by a speedy Election.

Haddonfield, May 17, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

THE Insufficiency of the Salary provided for a Secretary to the Council of Safety has hitherto disabled them from procuring any Person properly qualified for that Office. This not only obliges the Members of that Council to go through all the Drudgery of Clerkship, which is beneath the Dignity of that Board, but instead of being a Saving to the State, creates an additional Expence by diverting them from more important Business, by the perpetual Intervention of what is properly within the Department of a Secretary, and consequently prolongs their Sitzings.

Haddonfield, May 17, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Cooper*.

Council-Chamber, May 17, 1777.

THE House having taken into Consideration the Message from the House of Assembly of this Morning respecting the delivering out Arms to such Detachments of the Militia as are or may be ordered out in actual Service, &c.

Resolved,

That this House doth concur in the Resolution contained in the said Message.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Cooper* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Cooper*.

Council-Chamber, May 17, 1777.

THE House having taken into Consideration the Message from the House of Assembly of this Morning, respecting a Committee to collect the Accounts relative to Prisoners, &c.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sinnickson* be a Committee to join with the Committee of the House of Assembly to collect all the Accounts relative to Prisoners, and furnish Mr. *Boudinot* therewith; and also to collect and adjust all the publick Accounts with the Continental Congress, and the States of *Pennsylvania* and *New-York*, and lay them before the Legislature at the next Sitting of Assembly, in order that a general Settlement may be made with the Congress.

Resolved,

That this House will agree that the Legislature allow a reasonable Compensation for the Trouble of transacting the said Business.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Cooper* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The Memorial of Colonel *John Cox*, praying, for Reasons therein set forth, an Exemption of four Managers and Clerks, and about fifty Workmen for his Iron Works in this State, &c. was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be deferred for further Consideration.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Moore*s and Mr. *Bowen* do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Moore*s reported, that Mr. *Bowen* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, May 19, 1777.

The House met.

The Speaker acquainted the House that he had received Information from *Samuel How*, Esq. that there is now in his Hands *One Hundred and Twelve Pounds Ten Shillings* of the Bills of Credit ordered to be struck by the Provincial Congress, signed only by two of the Signers ; and that the Stamps are also in his Hands, and desired the Directions of the House relative to the same ; whereupon,

Resolved,

That Mr. *How* do deliver the Bills signed as aforesaid, and also the Stamps, to the Treasurer of this State, to remain subject to the future Order of the Legislature.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

His Excellency's Message of the 17th Instant, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Bowen* do wait upon His Excellency, and, in answer to the said Message, inform him, that this House are sensible of the Necessity of a full Representation from the several Counties in Legislature ; that a Bill for regulating Elections passed this House last Sitting, and is now before the Council, wanting their Concurrence ; that whenever a Law for that Purpose shall be passed, this House will immediately take the Measures that may be directed for supplying the present Vacancies in the House of Representatives.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, May 20, 1777.

The House met.

The Petition of Captain *Samuel Ogden*, praying Pay for a Number of Arms and Accoutrements unavoidably lost in the publick Service ; was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the Committee on publick Accounts.

The House took into Consideration the Memorial of Colonel *John Cox*, praying

an Exemption for a Number of Men from actual Service in the Militia, to be employed at his Iron Works in the County of *Burlington*; on the Question,

Ordered,

That he have Leave to bring in a Bill for exempting fifty Men to be employed in his Service, in order that he may be enabled to comply with the publick Demands, and his Contracts with the Board of War in furnishing Shot, &c. on Condition that he will equip and discipline the said Men, so that in case of any sudden Emergency, they may be ready to turn out for the Defence of the County.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Paterfon*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Paterfon* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service*, with the Amendments there-to annexed, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Amendments;

Whereupon the said Bill, with the Amendments in their Places, was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia*, reported the same with several Amendments; which Bill and Amendments in their Places being read; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Wednesday, May 21, 1777.

The House met.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia*, was read and compared; and, on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.

Mr. *Manning*,
Mr. *Clark*,
Mr. *Camp*,
Mr. *Vandike*,
Mr. *Dey*,
Mr. *Board*,
Mr. *Newbold*,
Mr. *Somers*,
Mr. *Dick*,
Mr. *Harris*,

Yeas.

Mr. *Bowen*,
Mr. *Buck*,
Mr. *Mehelm*,
Mr. *Coxe*,
Mr. *Drake*,
Mr. *Shaffer*,
Mr. *Brown*,
Mr. *Peterfon*,
Mr. *Hatborne*,
Mr. *Speaker*.

Nays.

Mr. *Combs*,
Mr. *Moore*,
Mr. *Holmes*,
Mr. *Mott*,
Mr. *Price*,
Mr. *Mickle*,
Mr. *Wetherby*,
Mr. *Cook*.

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Manning* do carry the said Bill to the Council for Concurrence.

Mr.

Mr. *Mebelm* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Report of the Commissioners appointed by this State to meet with the Commissioners from other States at *York-Town*, respecting the forming a System of Régulation adapted to those States ; was read the second Time, and ordered to be filed.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, May 22, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Coxe*, pursuant to Leave given, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage the casting of Cannon and Shot, and the rolling of Iron Plates and other wrought Iron for supplying the Army and Navy of the United States of America, at the Works at Batsto and Mount-Holly* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Memorial was presented by *Benjamin Vanleer*, complaining of fundry unjustifiable Proceedings of *Robert Brown*, Esq. a Justice of the Peace of the County of *Gloucester*, against the said Memorialist ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Memorial was presented by *Robert Brown*, Esq. praying to be heard before the House respecting a Complaint preferred to the House against him by Dr. *Benjamin Vanleer* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Memorial of *Benjamin Vanleer* against *Robert Brown*, Esq. was read the second Time ; and also that of Mr. *Brown* praying a Hearing ;

Ordered,

That the Parties be heard before the House on *Monday* next at three o'Clock in the Afternoon ; and that Mr. *Brown* have a Copy of the Complaint preferred to this House against him.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage the casting of Cannon and Shot, and the rolling of Iron Plates and other wrought Iron, &c.* was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Newbold*, Mr. *Cook* and Mr. *Brown*.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, May 23, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Brown*, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act to encourage the casting of Cannon and Shot, &c.* reported the same with an Amendment to the Title, and several other Amendments to the Bill, which being read with the said Amendments in their Places ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Clark*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to enable the Governor or Commander in Chief of the State of New-Jersey, to fit out a Vessel of War on Account*

Account of this State, to cruise against the Enemy, and for defraying the Expences thereof; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting of both Houses.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, May 24, 1777.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at the Iron Works at Batsto and Mountholly, in the County of Burlington, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned; was read and compared; on the Question,*

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Woodhull* and Mr. *Bowen* do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Woodhull* reported, that Mr. *Bowen* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to enable the Governor or Commander in Chief of the State of New-Jersey, to cause to be fitted out a Vessel of War, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to enable the Governor or Commander in Chief of the State of New-Jersey, to cause to be fitted out a Vessel of War to cruise against the Enemy, &c.* was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Peterfon* do carry the said Bill to the Council for Concurrence.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Peterfon* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

The Committees of both Houses met in Conference on the present State of the Government, &c. And

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Nine o'Clock.

Monday, May 26, 1777.

The House met.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Doctor *Benjamin Vanleer*, and *Robert Brown*, Esq. with their Evidences attending according to the Order of the House, were called in and heard; and the House having taken the same into Consideration, are unanimously of Opinion,
that

that nothing appears to impeach the Character or Conduct of Mr. *Brown* as a Justice of the Peace.

A Memorial was presented by Captain *Samuel Kaighn*, setting forth, that he has been at considerable Expence in enlisting Men in the four Months Service in Col. *Potter's* Battalion, and praying an Allowance, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 26, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* do acquaint the House of Assembly that this House have agreed to the 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th, and 12th Amendments made by the House of Assembly to the Bill, entitled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, and disagree to the Rest of the said Amendments; and that they request a free Conference with the House of Assembly on the subject Matter of the said Bill and Amendments.

Ordered also,

That Mr. *Cooper*, Mr. *Elmer*, Mr. *Condict*, Mr. *Hand*, Mr. *Scudder* and Mr. *Simmickson*, or any four of them, be a Committee to meet with a Committee of the House of Assembly in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the said Bill and Amendments; and that Mr. Vice-President be requested to assist in the said Conference; that Mr. *Condict* do wait on the House of Assembly and acquaint them therewith, and request them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose; and that the said Committees meet at the House of *Thomas Smith* at Nine o'Clock on *Wednesday* Morning next, if agreeable to the House of Assembly.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Tuesday, May 27, 1777.

The House met.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Drake*, Mr. *Mickle*, Mr. *Mott*, Mr. *Moore*, Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Cook*, Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Manning*, Mr. *Borven* and Mr. *Brown*, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to meet with the Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the Bill for regulating Elections, and the Amendments thereto; that Mr. Speaker be requested to assist in the said Conference; and that the Committee of this House do attend at the Time and Place appointed by the Council.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* and Mr. *Wetherby* do acquaint the Council therewith.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

COLONEL *Ogden* is attending for an Alteration in the Arrangement of his Regiment, which he will lay before the Joint-Meeting as soon as they give him an Opportunity. As the publick Service and the State of his Regiment require his Return to Head-Quarters as soon as possible, I hope his Application will meet with the earliest Attention.

Haddonfield, May 27, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

IT is represented to me by Captain *Harrison*, that there are about thirty Firelocks partly belonging to this State, and partly drawn from *Philadelphia*, that are at present so out of Repair as to be useless, but may at a trifling Expence be made fit for Service. As our Militia are in great Want of Arms, I would recommend it to you to appoint a Committee to employ a proper Person to have the above Arms repaired with all possible Expedition.

Haddonfield, May 27, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Harris*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to pardon certain Fugitives from the State of *New-Jersey*.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Wetherby* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the Vice-President in Council.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

COLONEL *John Holme*, of the eastern Battalion of Foot Militia in the County of *Salem*, having resigned his Commission by Reason of his bodily Indisposition, and Inability to discharge the necessary Duties required by the said Office, his Place ought to be supplied by the Joint-Meeting's appointing another Colonel to said Battalion with all convenient Speed.

Haddonfield, May 27, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service*, with the Amendments made thereto by the Council, was read the second Time, with the said Amendments in their Places; on the Question, Whether the House agrees to the said Amendments or not? It passed in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That the said Bill as amended and agreed to be re-engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting of the Council and Assembly.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, May 28, 1777.

The House met.

A Memorial was presented by *James Tallman*, complaining of the Conduct of *Robert Brown*, Esq. a Justice of the Peace of the County of *Gloucester*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Re-engrossed Bill, with the Council's Amendments, entitled, *An Act for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That the Speaker sign the same; and that Mr. *Combs* and Mr. *Manning* do carry

carry the said Bill to the Council and acquaint them that it is passed by this House.

The Memorial of *James Tallman*, complaining of the Conduct of *Robert Brown*, Esq. a Justice of the Peace of the County of *Gloucester*, was read the second Time,
Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Price* be a Committee to examine the Witnesses in Support of the Charge against Mr. *Brown*, and make Report to the House ; that the Evidences appear before the said Committee on *Friday* next at this Place ; and that the said *James Tallman* serve the said *Robert Brown*, Esq. with a Copy of this Order, and also a Copy of the Charge against him.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, as follows :

Gentlemen,

SEVERAL of the Subjects of this State have, by the Artifices of the Enemy, or their own criminal Hopes of enriching themselves by the Spoil of their Fellow-Subjects, been seduced from their Allegiance to it, and drawn over to join the *British* Troops in their hostile Attempts against it. There are others, who partly through Violence when in the Power of the Enemy, and partly by the Address of their Emissaries since, have so far been active against their Country, as to think it most prudent to secrete themselves within it to Escape the Punishment due to their Offences. A Majority of each Class of these pitiable Creatures, having had Time for serious Reflection, are convinced of their Folly, and probably many of them struck with the Horror of their Treason. The former are moreover groaning under the Tyranny of their Task-Masters, and find it impossible to live on Promises of future Grandeur, without present Sustenance to satisfy a craving Appetite : The latter are weary of a doleful Exile in Caves and Forests, and both ready to return to a Participation of the inestimable Blessings of Liberty enjoyed by the loyal and uncorrupted Subjects of this State, could they be assured of a Pardon for their past Misdemeanors.—And as it would reflect Honour on the Community to extend Mercy with the one Hand, while it brandished the Sword of Justice in the other ; and sound Policy requiring the reclaiming of every one, not absolutely incorrigible, I would recommend to the Honourable House the passing a general Act of Indemnity for all the above Criminals who shall accept the Benefit of it by surrendering themselves within a certain Time therein to be limited ; and at the same Time, the Instant Seizure and Conversion into Cash of all their Personal Estate, to be kept for their Use in case they return and surrender themselves within the Term prescribed ; but on Failure thereof to be sequestered for the publick Emolument.

The salutary Effects that will result from such an Act of Grace, are, I think, too obvious to require any Elucidation. I will however observe that while our Enemies pursue that Measure, and we neglect it, we contend upon unequal Terms. That by the Pardon recommended, many would return ; and to atone for their past Delinquency, give the amplest Proofs of the Sincerity of their Conversion by being peculiarly active in their Country's Cause.

The Seizure of their Effects in case of their Refusal to surrender is necessary to give Efficacy to the Act. Because while subject to their own Disposition, and their Families draw their Support from them, they have the less Inducement to embrace the proffered Clemency. And the *immediate* Seizure of them is necessary, as the Refugees will otherwise find Means to secure or alienate them by their Agents ; but their being secured to the Publick, and declared finally forfeited unless the Owners return within the Time limited, will either produce to the Commonwealth the personal Service, or the personal Estates of the present Proprietors.

Depend upon it, Gentlemen, that spirited Measures are absolutely necessary ; and that spirited Measures, if not too long procrastinated, will do the Business.

Haddonfield, May 28, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Committees of Council and Assembly met in Conference on the Bill for regulating Elections, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Thursday, May 29, 1777.

The House met.

The Committees of Council and Assembly again met in Conference on the Bill for regulating Elections, &c.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Committees of Council and Assembly met in Conference on the present State of the Government, &c.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Friday, May 30, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented by *Samuel Miller* and *James Young*, praying a Bounty on the manufacturing of Copperas and Brimstone in this State for four or five Months, provided they succeed in their Undertaking ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Harris, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act of general Pardon* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Brown* and *Mr. Wetherby* be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Accounts of the Expenditure of the *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* drawn from Congress, for the Payment of the Militia and Men enlisted in the four Months Service of this State, and make Report to the House.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Somers* and *Mr. Vandike* do wait on the Council and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. Somers reported, that *Mr. Vandike* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to the President in Council.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Tallman* and *Mr. Woodhull* be a Committee to bring in a Supplement to the Act, entitled, *An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. Price, from the Committee to whom was committed the Bill, entitled, *An Act for regulating the impressing of Carriages, Horses, and other Necessaries for*
the

the Use of the Army in this State, reported the same with several Amendments thereto, which was read,

Ordered,

That the Bill be recommitted to the same Committee.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Scudder.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, May 30, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* and Mr. *Sinnickson*, or any one of them, be a Committee to join with a Committee of the House of Assembly to settle the Accounts of the Expenditure of the *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* drawn from Congress for Payment of the Militia and Men enlisted in the four Months Service of this State, and make report thereof to this House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Scudder* do acquaint the House of Assembly therewith; and that the said Committees do meet at the House of *Samuel Kinnard*, at eight o'Clock this Evening.

The Committee appointed to examine the Evidence in Support of the Charge of *James Tallman* against *Robert Brown*, Esq. a Justice of the Peace of the County of *Gloucester*, having made Report of the said Evidence; and the Evidences having been also examined before the House on Oath, and the same being considered, the House are unanimously of Opinion that the Charge in the Memorial of the said *James Tallman* is not supported by the said Evidence.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Nine o'Clock.

Saturday, May 31, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to pardon such Offenders against the State as shall claim the Benefit thereof*, was read the second Time, and amended in the House; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Petition of *Samuel Miller* and *James Young*, praying a Bounty on the manufacturing of Copperas and Brimstone, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Tallman*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented by *Henry Jones* and Company, praying an Exemption for ten Men from Militia Duties, except in case of Emergency, to be employed at their Salt-Works in *Cape-May* County; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning Eight o'Clock.

Monday, June 2, 1777.

The House met.

The

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to pardon such Offenders against the State as shall claim the Benefit thereof*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dey* and Mr. *Bowen* do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Dey* reported, that Mr. *Bowen* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the President in Council.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, which was read, and is as follows :

Gentlemen,

THE Congress having recommended it to the executive Powers of each of the United States, to transmit to them Returns of the Continental Troops in each without Delay, you will be pleased for that Purpose to furnish me with Copies of the Returns of such of the Troops raised by this State for the Service of the United States, as have been laid before the House.

Haddonfield, June 2, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Ordered,

That His Excellency be furnished with the Returns agreeable to his Request contained in the said Message.

Mr. *Combs*, one of the Committee appointed to meet a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the Bill for regulating Elections, &c. made the following Report :

YOUR Committee appointed on *Monday* last to meet with a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the subject Matter of the Bill, entitled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, and the Amendments made thereto, beg Leave to report :

That the said Committees have met according to Order ; and, after some Time spent in Conference,

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the House of Assembly to recede from such of the said Amendments as were disagreed to by the Council.

By Order of the Committees,

JOHN COOPER,
JOHN COMBS.

Which being agreed to by the House,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Brown* do wait on the Council and inform them, that this House do recede from such of the Amendments to the Bill, entitled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, &c. as were disagreed to by the Council.

Mr. *Dey*, from the Committee appointed to meet a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the present State of the Government, made the following Report :

YOUR Committee appointed to meet the Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the present State of this Government, beg Leave to report, that the Joint-Committees are of Opinion,

1st. That an Act be passed to invest the Governor and Council of Safety of this State with Power forthwith to apprehend and imprison such and so many Persons disaffected to the State as they shall think sufficient to induce the Enemy

to

to release such of the Subjects of this Government as have been kidnapped and carried off to them, and there detained.

2. To send within the Enemy's Lines such of the Wives and Children of Persons who have gone to the Enemy, as they shall think necessary.

3. To direct the cleansing of such of the Towns in this State where Soldiers have been quartered, as they shall think necessary to prevent infectious Diseases.

4. To appoint a Justice or Justices of the Peace in any County where they shall find it necessary, subject to be superceded by the Joint-Meeting at the next Sitting of the General Assembly.

5. To imprison suspicious Persons until the next Court of Quarter-Sessions who refuse to take the Oaths of Fidelity to the State.

6. To permit Persons suspected, or under Prosecution for Felonies, to enlist on Board any of the Ships of War of the United States, or confine them for Trial, as they shall think fit.

7. That they be empowered to carry all their lawful Orders and Directions into Execution, by any such Detachments of the Troops of the United States which they may be able to procure for that Purpose, at the Expence of the said States.

8. That any House in which the Governor and Council of Safety shall confine or imprison any Person shall be deemed a Gaol.

9. That the Governor and Council of Safety, where four only of the Council are present, may call in any one Justice of the Peace, or Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, to make up the Quorum of the said Council.

10. That it be enacted, that when the Governor and Privy Council shall call a Court of Oyer and Terminer, said Court be empowered to try Persons in any County of this State by a Jury of such County, although the Offence may have been committed in any other County.

11. That the Judges shall postpone the Execution of Persons convicted of certain Felonies, until the Advice or Direction of the Governor and Council of Safety may be had, who may at their Discretion either suffer the Person so convicted to be executed agreeable to said Sentence, or send them on Board any of the Ships of War belonging to any of the United States.

12. And that the Governor and Council of Safety be invested with Power to regulate Passports; and to cause to be apprehended and detained such suspected Persons as shall travel without them.

May 31, 1777.

By Order of the Committees,

A. SINNICKSON,
THEUNIS DEY,
JOSEPH NEWBOLD.

Mr. Mehelm, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned*, which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned*, was read a second Time, and debated;

Ordered,

That the same be read again To-morrow, and debated Paragraph by Paragraph.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Tuesday, June 3, 1777.

The House met.

The House took into Consideration the Bill, entitled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned*; and the same being read Paragraph by Paragraph, the Question was put, Whether the House agrees to the fourth Section of the said Act or not? It passed in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. Moores,	Mr. Bowen,	Mr. Combs,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Mehelm,	Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Drake,	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Dey,	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Newbold,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Woodbull,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Mickle.
Mr. Somers,	Mr. Brown,	
Mr. Dick,	Mr. Peterson.	
Mr. Harris,		

On the Question, Whether the House agrees to the fifth Section? It passed in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. Brown,	Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Moores,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Peterson.	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Mehelm,		Mr. Tallman,
Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Drake,		Mr. Newbold,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Cook,		Mr. Bowen,
Mr. Dey,	Mr. Woodbull,		Mr. Price,
Mr. Somers,	Mr. Shaffer,		Mr. Mickle.

On the Question, Whether that Part of the sixth Section giving the Court discretionary Power with Respect to Fine and Imprisonment, be retained in the Bill or not? It passed in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.	Nays.
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Combs,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Woodbull,	Mr. Moores,	Mr. Mickle,
Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Holmes,	Mr. Somers,
Mr. Dick,	Mr. Brown,	Mr. Mott,	Mr. Wetherby,
Mr. Harris,	Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Dey,	Mr. Bowen.
Mr. Mehelm,	Mr. Speaker.	Mr. Tallman,	
Mr. Drake,		Mr. Newbold,	

On the Question, Whether the seventh Section in the original Bill, giving Power to the Governor and Council of Safety to appoint Justices of the Peace, is agreed to or not? It passed in the Negative as follows:

Yeas.	Nays.	Nays.
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Combs,	Mr. Somers,
Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Moores,	Mr. Harris,
Mr. Dey,	Mr. Manning,	Mr. Bowen,
Mr. Dick,	Mr. Holmes,	Mr. Drake,
Mr. Wetherby,	Mr. Mott,	Mr. Cook,
Mr. Mehelm,	Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Woodbull,
Mr. Brown,	Mr. Newbold,	Mr. Shaffer,
	Mr. Price,	Mr. Peterson.
	Mr. Mickle,	

On the Question upon the eighth Section of the said Bill, Whether the same be agreed to? It passed in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.

Yeas.
Mr. Combs,
Mr. Moores,
Mr. Manning,
Mr. Camp,
Mr. Vandike,
Mr. Dey,
Mr. Tallman,
Mr. Newbold,

Yeas.
Mr. Price,
Mr. Mickie,
Mr. Somers,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Wetherby,
Mr. Harris,
Mr. Bowen,

Yeas.
Mr. Mebelm,
Mr. Drake,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Woodbull,
Mr. Shaffer,
Mr. Brown,
Mr. Peterson.

Nays.
Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Mott.

On the Question upon the twelfth Section of the said Bill, Whether the House agrees thereto or not ? It passed in the Affirmative as follows :

Yeas.
Mr. Combs,
Mr. Moores,
Mr. Manning,
Mr. Camp,
Mr. Vandike,
Mr. Dey,
Mr. Somers,
Mr. Dick,
Mr. Harris,

Yeas.
Mr. Bowen,
Mr. Mebelm,
Mr. Drake,
Mr. Cook,
Mr. Woodbull,
Mr. Shaffer,
Mr. Brown,
Mr. Peterson.

Nays.
Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Mott,
Mr. Tallman,
Mr. Newbold,
Mr. Price,
Mr. Mickie,
Mr. Wetherby.

The Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*, was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,
That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Samuel Conarro*, praying Pay for a Wood Flat burnt by Order of Captain *Gilbert* at *Ancocus* Creek, in this State, to keep her from the Enemy, which was read ; on the Question,

Ordered,
That the Petitioner be directed to apply to the Council of Safety or Board of War at *Philadelphia*.

The House took into Consideration the Bill, entitled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned* ; and having gone through the same, on the Question,

Ordered,
That the same be engrossed.

Ordered,
That the Treasurer of this State do pay to Captain *Joseph Levis* the Sum of *Sixty-two Pounds Seven Shillings and Eleven-pence*, in full of his Account for Expences in bringing up thirty-six Prisoners from *Frederick* to *Salem*.

Ordered,
That Mr. *Wetherby* and Mr. *Bowen* do wait on the Council and request their Concurrence thereto.

Mr. *Dick*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act to suspend the Operation of an Act, entitled, An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain* ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Hand*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 3, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Hand* do carry the Bill, entitled, *An Act to pardon such Offenders against the State as shall claim the Benefit thereof*, with the Amendments there-to annexed, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Amendments ;

Whereupon the said Bill was read, with the Amendments in their Places ; on the Question, Whether the House agrees to the Amendments made by the Council ? It passed in the Affirmative :

Ordered,

Ordered,

That the same be re-engrossed.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to suspend the Operation of an Act, entitled, An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

Ordered,

That Mr. Combs, Mr. Bowen and Mr. Brown, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for the Payment of Incidental Charges.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Wednesday, June 4, 1777.

The House met.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Holmes and Mr. Mickle do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. Holmes reported, that Mr. Mickle and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Elmer.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 3, 1777.

THAT Mr. Elmer do wait on the House of Assembly and acquaint them, that this House concur in their Order contained in a Message of this Day respecting the Treasurer's paying *Sixty-two Pounds Seven Shillings and Eleven-pence* to Captain *Joseph Levis*, for his Expences in bringing thirty-six Prisoners from *Frederick-Town* to *Salem*.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question, Whether the same do pass or not? It was carried in the Affirmative as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. Combs,	Mr. Somers,	Mr. Cook,	Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Moores,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. Woodbull,	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Manning,	Mr. Wetherby,	Mr. Brown,	Mr. Newbold,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Shaffer,	Mr. Price,
Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Bowen,	Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Mickle.
Mr. Dey,	Mr. Mehelm,	Mr. Speaker.	
Mr. Tallman,	Mr. Drake,		

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Dick and Mr. Tallman do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to suspend the Operation of an Act, entitled, An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

Resolved,
That the same do pass.

Ordered,
That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Tallman* do carry the said Bill to the Council for Concurrence.

Mr. *Dick* reported, that Mr. *Tallman* and himself delivered the two Bills with them entrusted to the President in Council.

The House adjourned till Three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. *Combs*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered, *Council-Chamber, June 4, 1777.*

THAT Mr. *Condict* do carry the Bill re-engrossed with the Amendments agreed upon by both Houses, entitled, *An Act for regulating the Election of Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*, together with the former Bill and Amendments, to the House of Assembly.

Whereupon the said Bill having been read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,
That the same do pass.

Ordered,
That Mr. *Newbold* and Mr. *Vandike* do carry the same to the Council and acquaint them that it is passed by this House.

Mr. *Newbold* reported, that Mr. *Vandike* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered, *Council-Chamber, June 4, 1777.*

THAT Mr. *Scudder* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned*, is passed by this House without any Amendments.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

AS it is of the utmost Importance that the four Battalions raised by this State for the Service of the United States should be completed as soon as possible; and consequently that the Act lately passed for that Purpose should, with the greatest Dispatch, be circulated through every Part of the State; I would earnestly recommend it to the House to adopt the most effectual Measure for that Purpose without any Loss of Time.—I am the more solicitous on this Occasion, because I have Reason to think that far the greatest Number of the printed Copies of that Act still remain in the Printer's Hands, and may, after the End of the Session, continue to lie there for a considerable Time, unless some Measure be speedily adopted for circulating it through the State.

Haddonfield, June 4, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Thursday, June 5, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill re-engrossed with the Council's Amendments, entitled, *An Act of free and general Pardon, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Woodhull and Mr. Cook do carry the said Bill to the Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 5, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict present the Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Duty of Commissioners of Appeal*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence.

Whereupon the said Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 5, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at the Iron Works at Batsto and Mountholly, in the County of Burlington, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*, is passed by this House without any Amendments.

Mr. Woodhull reported, that Mr. Cook and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill sent from the Council, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Duty of Commissioners of Appeal*, was read a second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till Three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cooper.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 5, 1777.

THAT Mr. Cooper do present the Bill, entitled, *An Act for recovering the Arrearages of the Ten Thousand Pounds Tax, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, to the House of Assembly for their Concurrence.

Whereupon the said Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 5, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *A supplemental Act to an Act, entitled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia*, is passed by this House without any Amendments.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for recovering the Arrearages of the Ten Thousand Pounds Tax, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to ascertain the Duty of Commissioners of Appeal*, was read a third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That

That Mr. *Mebelm* and Mr. *Tallman* do carry the said Bill to the Council and acquaint them, that the same is passed by this House without any Amendments.

Mr. *Mebelm* reported, that Mr. *Tallman* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Friday, June 6, 1777.

The House met.

The Memorial of *George Mc Farland*, late an Ensign in the five Months Levies, having been read the second Time, and taken into Consideration,

Resolved,

That the Sum of *Twenty Pounds* be granted him for his present Support, to be paid out of the Treasury, and replaced by a like Sum from the Fund for the Relief and Benefit of such Soldiers as may be wounded or disabled, and of the Widows and Children of such as may lose their Lives in the Service of this State; and that the further Consideration of said Memorial be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Cook* do wait on the Council and request their Concurrence to this Resolution.

On Motion,

Resolved,

That such of the Members of the Legislature as have received Money for the Purpose of purchasing Cloathing for the Use of the Army, and have not laid out the Whole thereof, do immediately pay what is remaining in their Hands to the Treasurer of this State, to remain in the Treasury until drawn out by the Direction of the Legislature; and that *Thomas Denny*, *Moore Furman* and *Benjamin Halsey* do, and are hereby directed to deliver the Cloathing that already hath or hereafter shall be deposited in their Hands in Consequence of an Order of both Houses at their last Sitting, to the Clothier-General of the Army of the United States, or to his Order, whose Receipt shall be a sufficient Discharge.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Moore*s and Mr. *Somers* do wait on the Council and request their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

Mr. *Mott*, from the Committee to whom the Bill, entitled, *An Act to regulate the impressing Carriages, Horses and other Necessaries for the Use of the Army in this State*, was recommitted, reported the same with several Amendments, which being read, with the Amendments in their Places; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 6, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act to suspend the Operation of an Act, entitled, An Act to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain*, is passed by this House without any Amendments.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act to regulate the impressing Carriages, Horses and other Necessaries for the Use of the Army in this State*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

Resolved,
That the same do pass.

Ordered,
That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Cook* do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Dick* reported, that Mr. *Cook* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted to the President in Council.

Mr. *Vandike*, one of the Members for *Somerset* County, informed the House that *Alexander Mac Eowen* and *Jacob Bogart*, Esquires, two of the Representatives of the said County, are deceased;

Ordered,
That Mr. Speaker do issue an Order to the Sheriff to cause an Election to be held for two Representatives for the said County of *Somerset*, in the Room and Places of the said *Alexander Mac Eowen* and *Jacob Bogart*, Esquires.

Mr. *Wetherby*, one of the Members for *Salem* County, informed the House that *Elisba Bassett*, Esq. one of the Representatives of the said County, is deceased;

Ordered,
That Mr. Speaker do issue an Order to the Sheriff to cause an Election to be held for another Representative for the said County of *Salem*, in the Room and Place of the said *Elisba Bassett*, Esq.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered, *Council-Chamber, June 6, 1777.*
THAT Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in the Message from the House of Assembly of this Morning respecting the Payment of *Twenty Pounds* to *George Mc Farland*.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered, *Council-Chamber, June 6, 1777.*
THAT Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in the Message from the House of Assembly of this Morning, respecting the Payment of such Money as remain in the Hands of the Members of the Legislature for the Purpose of purchasing Cloathing for the Use of the Army, into the Treasury; and the Delivery of such Cloathing as are or may be deposited with the Commissioners therein named, by Order of the two Houses, to the Clothier-General of the Army, or to his Order.

The House adjourned till To-morrow Morning Eight o'Clock.

Saturday, June 7, 1777.

The House met.

Resolved,
That the Secretary of this State deliver up to the Honourable *John Stevens*, Esq. a Bond given by *John Smyth*, Esq. late Treasurer and his Securities for the due Execution of his Office as Treasurer; and that nevertheless the said *John Smyth*, and his Securities, are to stand in the same Situation with Respect to the Balance due on a certain Bond given by *Stephen Skinner* and *James Parker*, Esquires, to the said *John Smyth*, agreeable to a Writing already signed by two of them for that Purpose, as if the first mentioned Bond had not been delivered up. And that the Bond given by the said *Skinner* and *Parker* be delivered to the Attorney-General, who is hereby directed to prosecute the same, if the Balance due thereon be not paid to the Treasurer on Demand.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mebelm* and Mr. *Woodbull* do wait on the Council and request their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonsfield, June 7, 1777.

THE Act of free and general Pardon is now printed, and ready to be distributed; but unless some Directions are given for that Purpose before the House rises, there is Reason to think that the greatest Part of the Impression will lay at the Printer's Office, till the Term to which the Pardon is limited is elapsed.—By this Means the benevolent Intention of the Legislature in passing the Act, will be defeated; and many Offenders who would have taken the Benefit, had it been in their Power to have arrived at the Knowledge of it, remain obnoxious to its Penalties; and what appears in Speculation, as a Fountain of universal Access, be in Reality, a *Fountain sealed*. I would therefore recommend it to the House, to employ a fit Person, immediately to distribute a sufficient Number of Copies in such Parts of the State in which they are most likely to fall into the Hands of those for whose Benefit the Act is intended,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolutions contained in the Message from the House of Assembly of this Morning, respecting the delivering up to the Honourable *John Stevens*, Esq. a Bond given by *John Smyth*, Esq. late Treasurer, and his Securities, for the due Execution of his Office as Treasurer; and respecting a certain Bond given by *Stephen Skinner* and *James Parker*, Esquires, to the said *John Smyth*.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *A Supplement to an Act, entitled, An Act to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons*, is passed by the Council without any Amendments.

His Excellency's Message of this Day was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mebelm* and Mr. *Price* do wait on His Excellency, and, in answer thereto, inform him, that this House is fully sensible of the Necessity of having the Law referred to in his Message immediately distributed: And although the Members of this House when retired to their respective Counties will no Doubt facilitate that necessary Measure as soon as possible, yet they are of Opinion that it may be necessary to employ some Persons, whose immediate Business it shall be, and request that His Excellency will please to employ such Persons, as soon as convenient, and this House will make Provision for defraying the Expence thereof.

Mr. *Brown*, from the Committee on publick Accounts, made the following Report:

DR. BENJAMIN HOLME, Esq. in Account with the State of *New-Jersey*, for paying the
 To Cash and Sundries, per Vouchers and Account, - £. 684 : 18 : 6'

The House adjourned till Two, P. M.

The House met.

The Money drawn from Congress for the Payment of the Militia of this State being expended,

Resolved,

That the Delegates in Congress for this State be requested to apply to Congress for the further Sum of *One Hundred Thousand Dollars*, for discharging what now is, and soon will become due to the said Militia ; and that the said Delegates pay the Money by them to be received in Manner following, *to wit*, To the Honourable *Andrew Sinnickson*, Esq. *Twenty-five Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of the Counties of *Gloucester*, *Salem*, *Cumberland* and *Cape-May* : To *John Hart*, Esq. *Twenty-five Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of the Counties of *Hunterdon*, *Monmouth* and *Burlington* : To *Jacob Drake*, Esq. *Twenty-five Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of the Counties of *Morris*, *Bergen* and *Suffex* : To *Caleb Camp*, Esq. *Twenty-five Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia of *Essex*, *Middlesex* and *Somerset*. Whose respective Receipts for the said Sums so by them respectively to be received, shall be to the said Delegates a full Discharge for the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Moore*s do wait on the Council and request their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act for recovering the Arrearages of the Ten Thousand Pounds Tax, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read a third Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

The Engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Moore*s do carry the said Bill to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Tallman* reported, that Mr. *Moore*s and himself had obeyed the Orders of the House.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Price* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted to His Excellency the Governor.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Hand*.

Ordered,

Artillery Company commanded by Capt. *Hugg*, and for building Barracks at *Elfinborough*. CR.

By Powder, Rations and Pay of Capt. <i>Hugg's</i> Company of Artillery,	£. 544 : 11 : 9
By building Barracks at <i>Elfinborough</i> ,	136 : 9 : 5
Balance due to the State,	3 : 17 : 4
	<hr/>
	£. 684 : 18 : 6

JOHN MEHELM,
ABIA BROWN.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Hand* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in the Message from the House of Assembly of this Day respecting the Application to Congress for *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* for the Pay of the Militia of this State.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condiēt*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condiēt* wait on the House of Assembly, and acquaint them, that the Council having appointed a Committee to consider of and amend the Bill, entitled, *An Act to regulate the impressing Carriages, Horses and other Necessaries for the Use of the Army in this State*, cannot, considering the great Importance of the said Bill, without manifestly neglecting their Duty to their Constituents, forbear requesting the farther Sitting of the Assembly, until the Council receive the Report of their Committee on the said Bill.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, June 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Bill, entitled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, is passed by the Council without any Amendments.

Ordered,

That 750 Sets of the Votes, and the like Number of Laws, be printed; and that the Members of the respective Counties give Directions to the Printer where to send them.

The following ACTS were passed at the several Sitzings.

1. An *Act* repealing an Ordinance of the Convention of the State of *New Jersey*, of the twenty-first of *August* last; and for recovering and appropriating certain Militia Fines; and to prevent excessive Distresses.
2. An *Act* for the Security of the Government of *New-Jersey*.
3. An *Act* to render certain Bills of Credit a legal Tender within this State, and to prevent the counterfeiting of the same, and other Bills of Credit.
4. An *Act* to confirm and establish the several Courts of Justice within this State.
5. An *Act* to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons.
6. An *Act* for the Inspection of Gun-Powder.
7. An *Act* for establishing a Court of Admiralty and Custom-Houses within the State of *New-Jersey*.
8. An *Act* to encourage *William Parker*, *William Corlies*, *Richard Lippincott*, *Jeremiah Borden*, and *Laurence Hartshorne*, to erect Salt-Works in the State of *New-Jersey*.
9. An *Act* for the raising of four Battalions.
10. An *Act* for more effectually preventing disaffected and evil-minded Persons destroying the Credit and Circulation of the Continental Bills of Credit, and the Bills of Credit emitted by the late Congress of this State.
11. An *Act* to prevent the counterfeiting or forging the Tickets of the United States Lottery.
12. An *Act* to repeal the eighth Section of an Act, entitled, *An Act for the raising of four Battalions*.
13. An *Act* to prohibit the Exportation of Provisions, and other Articles therein mentioned.
14. An *Act* to prevent Desertion from the Army of the United States of America, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.
15. An *Act* to empower the Marshal of the Court of Admiralty to secure and sell the Prize Vessel or Brigantine called the *Defiance*, lately taken by the Militia of this State.

16. An *Act* to empower the Inhabitants of *Lower-Penns-Neck*, in the County of *Salem*, to rebuild and keep in Repair the Bridge and Causeway in the Road leading from *Stony-Island*, through the Township of *Manington*, to the *Salem* Great Road.
17. An *Act* for the Support of Government of the State of *New-Jersey*, to commence the twenty-seventh Day of *August* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-six, and to end the second *Tuesday* in *October* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-seven, and to discharge the publick Debts and contingent Charges thereof.
18. An *Act* for the Preservation of the publick Records of the State of *New-Jersey*.
19. An *Act* to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye, and other Grain.
20. An *Act* for the better regulating the Militia.
21. An *Act* for establishing Magazines of Arms, Ammunition and Warlike Stores in the several Counties of this State, and to postpone the Sinking of so much of the Quotas of the Sinking Fund Tax for the Years One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-six, and One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-seven, as may be necessary for defraying the Expence thereof.
22. An *Act* for investing the Governor and a Council, consisting of twelve, with certain Powers therein mentioned for a limited Time.
23. An *Act* for the regulating of Constables.
24. An *Act* for defraying fundry Incidental Charges.
25. An *Act* to authorize the present Treasurer to sign such of the unsigned Bills of Credit of this State as were directed by Law to be signed by the late Treasurers, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.
26. An *Act* for granting an annual Salary to the Secretary of this State, in Lieu of his Fees on the Commissions of Justices, Coroners and Militia Officers.
27. An *Act* to exempt ten Men, to be employed at the Union Salt Works in the State of *New-Jersey*, from Service in the Militia.
28. An *Act* to revive and continue several Courts of Justice in this State.
29. An *Act* for completing the four Battalions of this State in the Continental Service.
30. An *Act* for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of *New-Jersey*.
31. An *Act* for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned.
32. An *Act* to suspend the Operation of an *Act*, entitled, An *Act* to prevent the distilling of Wheat, Rye and other Grain.
33. A Supplemental *Act* to an *Act*, entitled, An *Act* for the better regulating the Militia.
34. An *Act* of free and general Pardon, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.
35. An *Act* to ascertain the Duty of Commissioners of Appeal.
36. An *Act* to exempt a Number of Men, to be employed at the Iron-Works at *Batso* and *Mountholly*, in the County of *Burlington*, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned.
37. A Supplement to an *Act*, entitled, An *Act* to punish Traitors and disaffected Persons.
38. An *Act* for defraying fundry Incidental Charges.

The House adjourned to meet at *Haddonfield* on *Wednesday* the third Day of *September* next.

BY VIRTUE of an ORDER of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the STATE of *New-Jersey*, I do appoint *Isaac Collins* of *Burlington*, to print these Votes.

JOHN HART, Speaker.

V O T E S
A N D
P R O C E E D I N G S
O F T H E
G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y
O F T H E
S T A T E
O F
N E W - J E R S E Y.

At a SESSION begun at PRINCETON on the 27th Day of *August* 1776,
and continued by Adjournments until the 11th of *October* 1777.

BEING THE LAST SITTING OF THEIR FIRST SESSION.

T R E N T O N :

Printed by ISAAC COLLINS, M.DCC.LXXIX.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE-COUNCIL.

<i>Middlesex,</i>	The Honourable {	John Wetherill,	} Esquires.
<i>Monmouth,</i>		Nathaniel Scudder,	
<i>Essex,</i>		Stephen Crane,	
<i>Somerset,</i>		William Paterfon,	
<i>Bergen,</i>		John Fell,	
<i>Burlington,</i>		Richard Smith,	
<i>Gloucester,</i>		John Cooper,	
<i>Salem,</i>		Andrew Sinnickson,	
<i>Cumberland,</i>		Theophilus Elmer,	
<i>Cape-May,</i>		Jonathan Hand,	
<i>Hunterdon,</i>		John Stevens, <i>Vice-President,</i>	
<i>Morris,</i>		Silas Condict,	
<i>Suffex,</i>		John Cleves Symmes,	

MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

<i>Middlesex,</i>	{	John Combs, Daniel Moores, Benjamin Manning,	} Esquires.
<i>Monmouth,</i>	{	John Covenhoven, Joseph Holmes, jun. James Mott, jun.	} Esquires.
<i>Essex,</i>	{	Abraham Clark, Caleb Camp, Henry Garritse,	} Esquires.
<i>Somerset,</i>	{	Jacob Bogart, Alexander Mac Eowen, Reoloff Vandike,	} Esquires.
<i>Bergen,</i>	{	Peter Zabriskie, Theunis Day, David Board,	} Esquires.
<i>Burlington,</i>	{	Peter Tallman, Caleb Shreve, Joseph Newbold,	} Esquires.
<i>Gloucester,</i>	{	Richard Somers, Robert F. Price, Isaac Mickle,	} Esquires.
<i>Salem,</i>	{	Edmund Wetherby, Samuel Dick, Elisha Basset, jun.	} Esquires.
<i>Cumberland,</i>	{	Ephraim Harris, Jonathan Bowen, John Buck,	} Esquires.
<i>Cape-May,</i>	{	Eli Eldredge, Joseph Savage, Hugh Hathorne,	} Esquires.
<i>Hunterdon,</i>	{	John Hart, <i>Speaker,</i> John Mehelm, Charles Cox,	} Esquires.
<i>Morris,</i>	{	Jacob Drake, Ellis Cook, William Woodhull,	} Esquires.
<i>Suffex,</i>	{	Caspar Shaffar, Abia Brown, Thomas Peterfon,	} Esquires.

V O T E S

A N D

P R O C E E D I N G S

O F T H E

G E N E R A L A S S E M B L Y

O F T H E

S T A T E o f N E W - J E R S E Y .

HADDONFIELD, Wednesday, September 3, 1777.

THE House met, pursuant to Adjournment; and, there not being a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business, adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Thursday, September 4, 1777.

The House met.

Roeloff Sebring and *William Ver Bryck*, Esquires, being returned Representatives for the County of *Somerset*, the several Returns and Certificates of their Election were read and filed; and, they having been duly qualified by the Speaker, took their Seats in the House.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Dick* and *Mr. Price* do wait on His Excellency, and acquaint him that a sufficient Number of Members to proceed on Business are met, and ready to receive any Thing he shall please to lay before them.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Mott* and *Mr. Mickle* be a Committee to inspect the Minutes, and make Report to the House what Business was referred to this Sitting.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. Dick reported, that *Mr. Price* and himself had waited on His Excellency according to Order, who was pleased to say, that as there

were not yet a sufficient Number of the Council to make a House, he should not have any Thing to lay before the Assembly this Evening.

The Speaker laid before the House Resolves of Congress, recommending it to the several States to take effectual Measures for procuring, during the ensuing Winter, such Supplies of Arms, Tents, and other military Stores, Blankets, Cloathing, Medicines, and other necessary Articles for their respective Militia, as may be wanted for the next Campaign, &c. Also to transmit to Congress Accounts of all Monies advanced for, and Expences incurred by, Prisoners of War, &c. which were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from *Charles Pettit*, Esquire, in Behalf of himself and others, Proprietors of the Independent Salt-Works, in this State, praying an Exemption of such a Number of Men, not exceeding twenty, as shall be actually employed in erecting and carrying on said Works; and also to grant to the Proprietors the Sum of £. 2000 on Loan, without Interest for three Years, the better to enable them to enlarge and carry on a Work so necessary to the publick Good, at this important Crisis; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Resolved,

That *Thomas Smith* be Doorkeeper to this House, during the present Sitting.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Friday, September 5, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented by *John Jacob Faish*, Proprietor of the Iron-Works at *Mount-Hope*, in *Morris County*, praying, for Reasons therein set forth, an Exemption from military Service for such a Number of Men as shall be found necessary to carry on the said Works; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

BY a Resolution of Congress, of the 29th of *August* last, I am requested to lend Congress such a Number of Arms as can be procured in this State; or, if Arms can be purchased in this State, that I will appoint proper Persons to collect and pay for them at the continental Expence.

I have some Reason to think that some Arms may be purchased in this State, but our Militia is at present so poorly armed, that I doubt whether all the Arms that can be procured will be more than sufficient to equip those who are yet in Want. If, however, there is a possibility of buying more than are necessary for that Purpose, I conceive it our Duty to furnish the Honourable Congress with the Surplus. I would therefore recommend it to the House to appoint proper Persons to purchase all the Arms that may be bought in this State, and to lend Congress whatever Part of them can be spared, after the necessary Equipment of our own Militia.

Haddonfield, Sept. 5, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Mott,

Mr. *Mott*, from the Committee appointed to inspect the Minutes, made the following Report:

THE Committee appointed to examine the Minutes of last Sitting of Assembly, and see what Business was left unfinished or referred to this Sitting, beg Leave to report as follows,

1. A Committee was appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill at this Sitting, for providing Ways and Means to sink the Bills of Credit now current in this State.

2. Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Brown* were appointed a Committee to join a Committee of Council, to collect all the Accounts relative to Prisoners; also to collect and adjust all publick Accounts with the Congress, the State of *New-York* and *Pennsylvania*, and lay them before the Legislature at this Sitting.

3. A Petition from *Samuel Miller* and *James Young*, praying a Bounty on the Manufacturing Copperas and Brimstone, referred to this Sitting.

4. A Memorial from *George Mac Farland*, referred to this Sitting.

5. The Bill, intituled, *An Act for recovering the Arrearages of the Ten Thousand Pounds Tax, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, referred to this Sitting.

6. We also find that Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Wetherby* were appointed a Committee to join a Committee of Council, to settle the Accounts of the Expenditure of the *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* for paying the Militia and Four-Months Men, in the Service of the State, and to make Report to the House.

7. Also a Petition from *Henry Jones* and Company, praying an Exemption for ten Men from Militia Duties, (except in case of Emergency) to be employed at their Salt-Works in *Cape-May*, was read, and ordered a second Reading.

8. A Memorial from Captain *Samuel Kaighn*, was read, and ordered a second Reading.

9. We further find it ordered, that such of the Members of the Legislature as have received Money for purchasing Cloathing for the Army, and not laid it out, pay the same to the Treasurer; and that *Thomas Denny*, *Moore Furman* and *Benjamin Halfey* do deliver the Cloathing, in their Hands, to the Clothier-General of the Army of the United States.

A Petition was presented from a Number of Inhabitants of *South-Amboy*, in the County of *Middlesex*, praying that the Appointment of Officers at their Town-Meeting, on the first of this Instant, *September*, may be confirmed by a Law; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick*, Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Mebelm*, Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Ver Bryck*, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Supplementary Act to the Act, intituled, *An Act for the better regulating the Militia*.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

I HEREWITH transmit you a Resolution of the Honourable the Congress, of yesterday's Date, recommending it to me forthwith to order out three thousand of the Militia of this State, for the Purpose of re-inforcing the Army under General *Washington*, to rendezvous at *Bristol* with as much Dispatch as possible, accompanied with a Letter from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esquire, urging my Compliance with the Requisition, and acquainting me that it will be highly agreeable

able to Congress to give the Command to General *Dickinson*, should the Appointment fall in with my Judgment.

By our Militia-Law the Commander in Chief of this State cannot Order our Militia to assist the Continental Army in any of the neighbouring States, without the Advice of the Legislature, when sitting. I therefore request the Advice of your House, as one Branch of the Legislature, on the Subject, with all the Dispatch which the Exigency of the Case seems to require. And, if the whole Legislature should concur in granting the Requisition, I doubt not the Appointment of General *Dickinson* to the Command, will be universally agreeable.

Haddonfield, Sept. 5, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which, with the Resolution and Letter therein mentioned, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Grace Malaby*, setting forth, that her late Husband, *Cornelius Malaby*, having enlisted in the Five-Months Service in this State, was taken Prisoner and died in the Service, and left her with a Family of small Children in Distress, and praying Relief; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented from sundry Persons, Constables in the County of *Morris*, setting forth, that the Fees allowed by Law are inadequate to the Services they perform, and praying the Fees may be raised; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented by *Anne Hyler*, of *Morris* County, Widow of *Jacob Hyler*, deceased, setting forth, that her Husband having in his Lifetime joined the *British* Army, his Estate has been sold by the Commissioners, as forfeited to the State, and praying to have the Monies the said Estate sold for returned to her; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes*, Mr. *Combes*, and Mr. *Camp*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to prevent Heirs at Law from taking by Descent the Whole of the Real Estate of Persons dying Intestate.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Saturday, September 6, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

THE Congress by their Resolution of the 12th of *May* last, having resolved that Post-Masters, Post-Riders, and Persons immediately concerned in conducting the Business of the Post-Office, ought to be exempted from all Military Duties, and that it be recommended to the Legislatures of the different States to exempt such Persons accordingly; I doubt not, you will by an additional Bill to our Militia Law, provide for the Exemption so recommended.

Haddonfield, Sept. 6, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition

A Petition was presented from a Number of Inhabitants of *Freehold*, in the County of *Monmouth*, setting forth, that Waggon, Horses, Grain, and other Articles for the Use of the Army, have been frequently impressed from the Inhabitants, and that they have been put to great Trouble and Expence in obtaining any Pay for the same, and praying Redress; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Petition from the Inhabitants of *South-Amboy*, praying that the Proceedings of their Town-Meeting the first of this Instant, *September*, with Respect to the Election of Officers, may be confirmed, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Dey*, Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Camp*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for that Purpose, and also to establish the Election of Officers at any other Town-Meetings in this State, where it may be necessary.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, intitled *An Act to explain and amend an Act, intitled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia, and the Supplemental Act thereto*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning nine o'Clock.

Monday, September 8, 1777.

The House met.

The Petition from sundry Constables of *Morris County*, praying their Fees may be raised, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same lie on the Table.

The Petition from the Inhabitants of *Freehold*, in the County of *Monmouth*, respecting the impressing of Waggon, Horses, Grain, &c. for the Use of the Army, was read the second Time; but as a Bill is now before the Council, tending to prevent in future the Inconveniences complained of in the said Petition, it is unnecessary to take further Order therein.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Edward Keasby, Esq. being returned a Representative for the County of *Salem*, the Return and Certificate of his Election, was read and filed; and, he having been duly qualified by the Speaker, took his Seat in the House.

A Petition was presented by *Thomas Allen*, setting forth, that he is one of the Militia of the County of *Salem*, and was one of the Number taken Prisoners by the *English* at *Staten-Island*, on the 17th of *October* last; that owing to the Severity of his Treatment and the Disorders contracted in Consequence of it, he continued for several Months incapable of getting his Livelihood, and hath not from the Time of his being taken Prisoner until now received any Consideration for the same, and praying Relief, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented by *John Francisco*, one of the Militia of *Salem County*, setting forth, that from his being wounded while in Service, with a Musket Ball, he was rendered incapable of Business, and praying some Recompence for his Loss of Time, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*, informing the House that His Excellency is in the Council-Chamber, and desires the Attendance of the House; whereupon Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and with the House went to wait on His Excellency; and, being returned, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and reported, that the House had waited on His Excellency, who was pleased to make a Speech to the Council and General Assembly, of which he said he had, to prevent Mistakes, obtained a Copy; which, by Order of the House, was read, and is as follows, *viz.*

Gentlemen,

I HEARTILY congratulate you on the important Success of the *American Arms* at *Bennington* and *Fort Schuyler*; which at the same Time that it reflects the brightest Lustre on the Bravery of our Officers and Men; may serve to teach *Great-Britain* that we are not to be subdued by Proclamations; nor under any Apprehensions from a menacing Meteor, that, after the most portentous Glare, so soon evaporates into Smoke, or vanishes into Nothing.

The same Spirit which at first animated us to oppose the Attempts of arbitrary Power; and, after all Reasoning and Expostulation had been found Fruitless, compelled us, by Force of Arms, to assert the unalienable Rights of Freemen, will ever enable us, in a Reliance upon the Divine Blessing, to baffle the tyrannic and bloody Purposes of an Enemy, divested of Humanity; at open War with Reason and Justice; and out-barbarizing all the Barbarities in History. How conspicuous the Finger of Heaven in their Expulsion from this State, the most Unobservant may recollect with Wonder; and every serious Man will remember with devout Gratitude. Let us only persevere with the same Ardour in repelling their unprovoked Hostilities, and they must ere long relinquish their desperate Purpose, and return to the Place from whence they came with indelible Infamy. Let us not therefore be discouraged by a few transient Inconveniencies, the enduring of which may be productive of the most permanent Blessings. In Proportion to the Value of the Prize contended for, ought to be the Vigour of our Struggle, and the Blood and Treasure we should be willing to expend in securing it: And what can be too valuable a Sacrifice for securing that without which nothing else is of any Value? For with the Loss of Liberty, every remaining Possession, being held at the arbitrary Will of another, becomes, beyond Question, utterly worthless. To deter us into Submission, the Horrors of War may, by artful Men, be drawn in strong and glowing Colours: And War is indeed a Calamity most devoutly to be deprecated. But whence doth War derive its Horrors, but from the temporary Loss of some of those Blessings, of which the meditated Despotism would totally deprive us, and that in perpetuity? The Establishment of Tyranny will surely leave us nothing of which the Effects of War can divest us. But a resolute Opposition may prevent the Establishment of Tyranny, and secure Freedom to our remotest Posterity. Appeal to Reason; and she cries aloud, RESIST, RESIST.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

I shall now lay before you such Matters as have occurred to me, as worthy your Deliberation during the present Session.

The Scarcity of Salt is a Matter of serious Consideration ; and has been industriously perverted by our internal Enemies to the most pestilent Purposes. Nor can there be any Reason for perpetuating this Grievance, and the pernicious political Consequence thence resulting, while a Quantity, sufficient for the Consumption of all our Inhabitants, may easily be manufactured in this State. It seems, therefore, worthy your Attention, whether it would not be expedient for the Legislature to erect such Works at the publick Expence ; and to appoint proper Persons to distribute the Commodity, in due Proportions, to the several Counties at nearly the prime Cost. Thus might all the People be cheaply supplied ; and the State be fully reimbursed.

The Loss of a very considerable Sum of Money, together with a Number of Specialties and other valuable Papers belonging to the State, which had been committed to the Custody of a late Member of Convention, appears a Matter of two much Importance to acquiesce in, without a legal Determination of his Culpability or Innocence. I find, indeed, by your Journals, that the House has made some Inquiry into the Matter. But the Assembly being no competent Judicature finally to determine whether the Trustee is responsible for the Loss of the Deposit ; the Question still remains to be decided by a constitutional Tribunal, which is either a Court of Law, or in a Course of Equity, according to the Nature and Circumstances of the Case. I would, therefore, recommend it to you, in Justice to the good People of this State, who are intimately concerned in the Event of the Trial, to direct a Prosecution for the Purpose.

As our Proportion of the heavy Debt which will inevitably be occasioned by the unnatural War, in which the boundless Avarice and Ambition of *Great-Britain* hath involved us, will be severely felt unless seasonably discharged, I would most earnestly importune you not to suffer this Session to pass without sinking Part of it by Tax. Those who are for postponing this interesting Affair to a distant Period, are not aware of the extensive Mischief that will attend so fatal a Measure.

I think it my indispensable Duty, Gentlemen, to assure you of my repeated Experience of the Insufficiency of our Militia Law. In time of open War, and especially in case of an Invasion, the military Force of a State ought to be compellable to turn out. Any Commutations or pecuniary Mulcts in Lieu of actual Service, render the Act, at such a critical Juncture, altogether ineffectual ; and may finally terminate in our utter Destruction. Experience, constant reiterated Experience, has shewn its Insufficiency ; and not to frame one more efficacious after such irresistible Conviction, what will it be deemed but a Kind of Desertion of the Cause ; and leaving the State a Victim to the Enemy, at the most perilous Crisis of the Contest ? It must, however, be acknowledged to the Honour of our Militia, (and it is with peculiar Pleasure I embrace this Opportunity to do it) that Numbers of them have appeared in Defence of their Country with the greatest Alacrity ; and behaved in Battle with such Bravery as would have increased the Renown of the most experienced Veterans. But those gallant Men were actuated by the Spirit of Patriotism, and scorned to measure their Exertions for their Country by the Requisitions of it's Laws. Others, by commuting for actual Ser-

vice by Fines and Forfeitures (and those not duly collected) throw a disproportionate Burden on the Willing ; who by that Means are extremely harrassed, and have abundant Reason for Complaint and Murmuring.

The Necessity of a larger Supply of Fire-Arms, and of publick Magazines of Ammunition and warlike Stores is so obvious, that I doubt not your Zeal for the publick Safety will not suffer you to delay the necessary Provision.

It is also worthy your Deliberation, whether the Workmen employed by such Owners of Furnaces, Forges and Rolling-Mills, as are under Contract to furnish the United States of America with Cannon, Cannon-Shot, Camp-Kettles, and other Implements and Utensils of Iron for the Use of their Army, ought not to be exempted from the Duties and Services enjoined by the Militia Law, under such Regulations, for preventing any Abuse of the Indulgence, as may be thought proper.

As a Number of Emissaries are employed by the Enemy to circulate counterfeit Bills made in Imitation of the continental Currency ; who frequently pass them in such of the Counties of this State in which either no Trial at all, or no fair and impartial Trial of such Offenders can without Difficulty be had ;—I would recommend the passing a Law for trying, in any County of this State by a Jury of that County, all such Offenders already apprehended, and who may hereafter be apprehended, though the Offence be committed in any other County.

Being fully convinced that a capital Design of the Act, intituled, *An Act of free and general Pardon, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, will, in great Measure, be defeated by the fraudulent Practices of the Friends and Agents of the Offenders, whose personal Estates are thereby declared to be forfeited ; it may deserve your Consideration, whether it will not be necessary to pass another Act, for the more effectually securing the valuable Ends thereby intended. What more particularly furnishes great Opportunity for eluding the true Intent of the Law, is a Want of Authority in the Commissioners to compel the Appearance of Persons suspected to conceal the Property of the Delinquent, or to be indebted to him, and to examine them, as well as other necessary Witnesses, upon Oath ; and also the Want of proper Penalties upon those who may be guilty of such Concealment ; with the Superaddition of adequate Rewards for encouraging a Discovery.

As the Judgment in High Treason cannot be awarded consistent with our Constitution, and the Courts having no Authority to alter the Sentence prescribed by Law, I would recommend it to you to ascertain the Punishment for that Crime by Act of Assembly. For besides the Style of the Sentence, and the Disposition of the Head and Quarters of the Criminal, which the Judges might perhaps think themselves at Liberty to accommodate to our Circumstances, the Execution itself is so shocking and sanguinary, as the Humanity of an *American* Legislature cannot be presumed to have intended ; and which, indeed, none but a Savage, or a *British* Subject, can think of without Horror.

Several Persons, to avoid receiving the Money due to them by Bond, Bill, or Promissory Note bearing Interest, frequently pretend, on Tender of the Money, that they are not possessed of such Notes or Specialties, having sent them to Places of greater Security ; and many such Obligees and Creditors are themselves removed into other States, and Places unknown to their Debtors, who, tho' ready to discharge their Debts, are thereby prevented from doing it ; the principal Sum in the

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mean-while carrying Interest, and the Debtor obliged to keep the Money at his own Risque. To frustrate such iniquitous Subterfuges, (the malignant Design of which is sufficiently evident) I would recommend an Act to enable every Obligor or Debtor, whose Creditor is removed out of the State, or cannot be found in it, or who refuses to receive the Debt when tendered, to pay the same into the Treasury for his Use, and to be thereupon discharged from the Sum so paid, and all the Interest thereafter accruing.

The Act, intituled, *An Act for rendering more effectual two certain Acts therein mentioned*, being nearly expired by its own Limitation, it is of the last Moment to the Commonweal, to have it continued to such farther Period as may be deemed necessary to carry it fully into Execution.

Gentlemen,

You are now approaching the Close of a Year which has been chiefly spent in serving the Publick. That you have served it with Fidelity, and with no inconsiderable Degree of Success, must be a very pleasing Reflection; and justly entitle you to the Applause of your Country. May you still continue in whatever Station it shall please Providence to place you, to exert your Endeavours for the Prosperity of a free and independent People; and, during the whole Course of the Conflict, may our Creed be VICTORY, and our Motto, PERSEVERE.

Haddonfield, Sept. 3, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Ordered,

That His Excellency's Speech have a second Reading.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Tuesday, September 9, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Jonathan Squires* and *William Cook*, of *Newark*, setting forth, that some of the Soldiers of the first and ninth *Virginia* Regiments, in *March* last, came to the Petitioners Houses and abused their Families, and took and carried away sundry of their Effects, &c. and praying Redress; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition from *John Clawson*, preferred to the Council of Safety, and referred to the Legislature, was read, setting forth, that he had the Misfortune to lose his left Hand in the Service of the State, and praying Relief;

Ordered,

That the same have a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

COLONEL *Quick* having resigned his Commission, you will be pleased to supply the Vacancy thereby occasioned, by the Appointment of another Colonel to that Battalion.

Haddonfield, Sept. 9, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting.

His Excellency's Speech was read the second Time,

Ordered,

That the same be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Whereupon the House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on His Excellency's Speech; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met and adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Wednesday, September 10, 1777.

The House met.

The House again, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on His Excellency's Speech; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had come to several Resolutions thereon, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same;

Ordered,

That the Report be made immediately.

Whereupon Mr. *Harris* reported the Resolutions of the Committee, as follows:

1. *Resolved,*

THAT it is the Opinion of the Committee that an Address be presented to His Excellency, in Answer to his Speech; to which the House agreed.

2. That a publick Salt-Works be erected in this State; to which the House agreed.

3. That the Committee will resume the Consideration of the Evidence offered by *Samuel Tucker*, Esquire, at the last Sitting, respecting the Loss of the publick Money, &c. to which the House agreed.

4. That a Militia Law, or an Amendment to the present Law respecting the Militia, be gone into, and Provision made for a Supply of Fire-Arms and publick Magazines of Ammunition and warlike Stores; to which the House agreed.

5. That a Bill be gone into for trying Persons counterfeiting the continental Currency, in any County of this State, tho' the Offence be committed in any other County; and, on the Question, Whether the House agrees thereto? It passed in the Affirmative, as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Dey</i> ,	Mr. <i>Sebring</i> ,	Mr. <i>Combs</i> ,	Mr. <i>Price</i> ,
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Ver Bryck</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mickle</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mebelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,	Mr. <i>Hatborn</i> ,
Mr. <i>Manning</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Tallman</i> ,	Mr. <i>Eldredge</i> .
Mr. <i>Drake</i> ,	Mr. <i>Dick</i> ,	Mr. <i>Shreve</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Cook</i> ,	Mr. <i>Keasby</i> ,		
Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,		
Mr. <i>Vandike</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> .		

6. That

6. That a Bill be gone into to enable the Commissioners to prevent the Concealment of Effects taken by Virtue of the Act of free and general Pardon, &c. to which the House agreed.

7. That a Law be gone into to ascertain the Punishment for the Crime of High Treason; to which the House agreed.

8. That a Bill be gone into to enable Obligors and Debtors, whose Creditors are removed, or refuse to accept the Debt when tendered, to pay the same into the Treasury, &c. to which the House agreed.

And that the Committee desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

A Petition was presented from *Samuel Kirkendol*, of the County of *Suffex*, setting forth, that he being detached in the Militia Service last *December* under Colonel *Symmes*, had the Misfortune to be wounded, whereby he is rendered an Invalid for Life, and hath been at great Expence in Surgery, &c. and praying Relief; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Mott*, from the Committee appointed to collect the Accounts relative to Prisoners, &c. made the following Report :

WE the Subscribers being Part of the Committee appointed for collecting all the Accounts relative to Prisoners, and to collect and adjust all publick Accounts with the Congress, States of *Pennsylvania* and *New-York*, and lay them before the Legislature this Sitting, beg Leave to observe,

That we met soon after the Adjournment of the Assembly, and notwithstanding we have used our utmost Endeavour, have not been able to find the Minutes of the last Committee of Safety of this State, or the Account of *John Dennis*, Esquire, one of the former Treasurers, which was settled with the Convention at *Brunswick*. There are also several Receipts for Money paid by Mr. *Dennis* and Mr. *Tucker* missing; neither could we find any particular Account of the Settlement with *Richard Smith*, Esquire, late Treasurer. And as large Sums of Money have been paid to several Persons, to be laid out for various Purposes, which have not been settled, Part of which ought to be charged to Congress. But having no Authority to cite any Person to attend us and settle those Accounts, or to give any Information, we find it out of our Power to collect and render a proper Account, agreeable to our Appointment; but such Parts as we have been able to procure we submit to the Inspection of the House.

PETER TALLMAN,

JAMES MOTT, jun.

DR.	The UNITED STATES of AMERICA to	
May 4, 1776.	To Cash paid <i>Rew, Vorbees</i> and <i>Smock</i> , for three Loads of Prisoners and Baggage from <i>Princeton</i> to <i>Trenton</i> , - - - -	£. 1 19 0
July 9.	To Cash paid Colonel <i>Bowes Reed</i> , for transporting the <i>British</i> Prisoners from <i>Burlington</i> to <i>York-Town</i> , - - - -	201 0 0
7.	To Cash paid <i>William Bunting</i> , for conveying Captain <i>Hescott</i> and Baggage from <i>Brunswick</i> to <i>Burlington</i> , - - - -	3 10 0
16.	To Cash paid Colonel <i>John Nelson</i> , for Pay, Ferriages, Subsistence and carrying Baggage and Prisoners, as per Account, -	28 15 6
	To Cash paid Captain <i>Timothy Shalor</i> , for Maintenance of Prisoners taken by him, -	14 11 7
	To Cash paid <i>Samuel French</i> , for a Coffin for a Prisoner, - - - - -	1 10 0
		<hr/>
		£. 251 6 1
July 4, 1776.	To Cash paid Colonel <i>Bowes Reed</i> , for guarding Mr. <i>Franklin</i> from <i>Burlington</i> to <i>Princeton</i> , - - - - -	51 2 10
	To Cash paid Major <i>Enos Kelsey</i> , for guarding Mr. <i>Franklin</i> from <i>Princeton</i> to <i>Morris-Town</i> , - - - - -	19 6 3
	To Cash paid Captain <i>Thomas Kenney</i> , for guarding Mr. <i>Franklin</i> from <i>Morris-Town</i> to <i>Lebanon</i> in <i>Connecticut</i> , - - - -	112 8 3
		<hr/>
		£. 434 3 5

This Account is charged in the general Account against the Congress.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Brown* be a Committee to prepare and bring in the Draught of an Address to His Excellency, in Answer to his Speech.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe*, Mr. *Price* and Mr. *Eldredge*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for erecting a publick Salt-Works in this State.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm*, Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Tallman*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill to enable the Commissioners to prevent the Concealment of the personal Estate and Effects of Delinquents, declared to be forfeited by the Act of free and general Pardon.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Thursday, September 11, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Manning*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to re-vive*

the State of NEW-JERSEY,

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vive and continue several Courts of Law, and for other Purposes therein mentioned ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Combs, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants to elect Town-Officers in such Townships or Precincts where the same has been neglected at the usual Time of holding their Town-Meetings, and for other Purposes therein mentioned ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.*

A Petition was presented by John Niblick, who was a Private in Col. Martin's Battalion in the Five-Months Service, setting forth, that he had the Misfortune, in a Battle at the *White-Plains*, to lose his left Eye, whereby he has been at great Expence and Loss of Time, &c. and praying Relief ; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

Samuel How, Esquire, one of the Signers of the Bills of Credit ordered to be struck by the Provincial Congress, having at the last Sitting informed the House that he had in his Hands a Part of said Money signed only by two of the Signers, and that the Stamps were also in his

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Hands ;

Hands ; it was then resolved that the said *Samuel How* should deliver the said Money and Stamps to the Treasurer of this State : In Pursuance of which Resolve, Mr. *How* produced to the House the Treasurer's Receipt for the Sum of £. 113 : 5 : 0, being the Sum which remained in his Hands, and for six Plates of the Arms and six of the Balm Leaf for the Back of the Bills.

Resolved,

That *Silas Condict*, *Jacob Drake* and *Ellis Cook*, Esquires, be, and they or any of them are hereby empowered to receive of the Executors of *Jacob Ford*, jun. deceased, the Quantity of Powder mentioned in the Condition of a certain Bond given by him and his Securities to the Treasurers of the Provincial Congress, dated the 24th Day of *May*, 1776, or any Part thereof ; and that the Receipt of the said *Silas Condict*, *Jacob Drake* and *Ellis Cook*, or either of them, shall be a full Discharge for the Quantity of Powder so to be received ; and that in case the Powder cannot be furnished pursuant to the Condition of the said Bond, that the Executors pay the Money specified in the said Bond to the Treasurer for the Use of the State, and that the said Bond be delivered to the Treasurer in order that he may receive the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Eldredge* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Friday, September 12, 1777.

The House met.

The Speaker laid before the House Resolves of Congress of the 26th of *August*, 1776, as follows :

I N C O N G R E S S, *August* 26, 1776.

W H E R E A S in the Course of the present War, some commissioned and non-commissioned Officers of the Army and Navy, as also private Soldiers, Marines and Seamen may lose a Limb, or be otherwise so disabled as to prevent their serving in the Army or Navy, or getting their Livelihood, and may stand in Need of Relief ;

Resolved,

That every commissioned Officer, non-commissioned Officer and private Soldier who shall lose a Limb in any Engagement, or be so disabled in the Service of the United States of *America* as to render him incapable afterwards of getting a Livelihood, shall receive during his Life, or the Continuance of such Disability, the one Half of his monthly Pay from and after the Time that his Pay as an Officer or Soldier ceases, to be paid by the Committee as hereafter mentioned.

That every Commander of any Ship of War or armed Vessel, commissioned Officer, warrant Officer, Marine or Seaman belonging to the United States of *America*, who shall lose a Limb in any Engagement in which no Prize shall be taken, or be therein otherwise so disabled as to be rendered incapable of getting a Livelihood, shall receive during his Life, or the Continuance of such Disability, the one Half of his monthly Pay from and after the Time that his Pay as an Officer or Marine ceased, to be paid as hereafter mentioned. But in case a Prize shall be taken

taken at the Time such Loss of Limb or other Disability shall happen, then such Sum as he may receive out of the nett Profits of such Prize, before a Dividend is made of the same agreeably to former Orders of Congress, shall be considered as Part of his Half-Pay, and computed accordingly.

That every commissioned Officer, non-commissioned Officer and private Soldier in the Army, and every Commander, Commission-Officer and Warrant-Officer, Marine or Seaman of any of the Ships of War or armed Vessels belonging to the United States of *America*, who shall be wounded in any Engagement so as to be rendered incapable of serving in the Army or Navy, though not totally disabled from getting a Livelihood, shall receive such monthly Sum towards his Subsistence as shall be judged adequate by the Assembly or other Representative Body of the State where he belongs or resides, upon Application to them for that Purpose, provided the same doth not exceed his Half-Pay.

Provided that no Commission-Officer, Non-commission Officer or private Soldier in the Army; Commander, Commission-Officer, Warrant-Officer, Marine or Seaman, of any of the Ships of War or armed Vessels belonging to the United States of *America*, who shall be wounded or disabled as aforesaid, shall be entitled to his Half-Pay or other Allowance, unless he produce to the Committee or Officer appointed to receive the same in the State where he resides or belongs, or to the Assembly or Legislative Body of such State, a Certificate from the commanding Officer who was in the same Engagement in which he was so wounded, or in case of his Death, from some other Officer of the same Corps, and the Surgeon who attended him, or a Certificate from the Commander of the Ship of War or armed Vessel engaged in the Action in which any Officer, Marine or Seaman received his Wound, and from the Surgeon who attended him, of the Name of the Person so wounded, his Office, Rank, Department, Regiment, Company, Ship of War or armed Vessel to which he belonged, his Office or Rank therein, the Nature of his Wound, and in what Action or Engagement he received it.

That it be recommended to the several Assemblies or Legislative Bodies of the United States of *America* to appoint some Person or Persons in their respective States, who shall receive and examine all such Certificates as may be presented to them, and register the same in a Book, and also what Support is adjudged by the Assembly or Legislative Body of their State to those whose Case requires but a partial Support, and also of the Payment from Time to Time of every Half-Pay and other Allowance, and of the Death of such disabled Person or the ceasing of such Allowance, and shall make a fair and regular Report of the same quarterly to the Secretary of Congress or Board of War, where a separate Record shall be kept of the same.

That it be recommended to the Assemblies or Legislative Bodies of the several States to cause Payment to be made of all such Half-Pay or other Allowances, as shall be adjudged due to the Persons afore-named, on Account of the United States.

Provided that all such Officers and Soldiers who may be entitled to the aforesaid Pension, and are found to be capable of doing Guard or Garrison Duty, shall be formed in a Corps of Invalids, and subject to the said Duty: And all Officers, Marines and Seamen of the Navy who shall be entitled to the Pension aforesaid, and shall be found capable of
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doing any Duty on Board of the Navy, or in any Department thereof, shall be liable to be so employed.

Copy from the Journals,
WILLIAM CH. HOUSTON, D. Secr'y.

Which were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered, Council-Chamber, Sept. 12, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly that this House have concurred in the Resolutions contained in the Message received from the House of Assembly this Morning, respecting the Appointment of a Committee to receive the Powder from the Executors of *Jacob Ford*, jun. Esquire, pursuant to the Condition of the Bond of the said *Jacob Ford* and others, &c.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Law, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the second Time, and amended in the House; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

Mr. Price, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Members of the Legislature to give due Attendance in the respective Houses to which they belong*, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants to elect Town-Officers*, &c. was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cox.

Council-Chamber, Sept. 12, 1777.

HIS Excellency the Governor laid before the House a Letter, of this Day, from the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esquire, President of the Congress, informing His Excellency that it is the earnest Desire of Congress that he will immediately order out four thousand of the *Jersey* Militia, to reinforce the Army under General *Washington*, with all possible Expedition; and that if His Excellency should not be able to call out that Number, it is the Request of Congress that he will call out as many as possible in this critical State of Affairs.

The House having taken the said Request of Congress into Consideration, and also considering the present critical State of Affairs in *Pennsylvania*,

Resolved,

That His Excellency the Governor be advised forthwith to order out all the Militia, not now on Duty, of the Counties of *Hunterdon*, *Somerset*, *Suffex*, *Burlington*, *Gloucester*, *Salem*, *Cumberland* and *Cape-May*, to rendezvous at such Places as His Excellency shall think proper, so as to be ready to act as Occasion shall require. And that His Excellency be advised to order all or any Part of the said Militia, not exceeding four thousand Men, to join the Army under General *Washington* in *Pennsylvania*, as he shall think expedient.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Cox* wait on the House of Assembly with the foregoing Resolution, and request their Concurrence therein.

By Order of the House,

CHA. PETTIT, Clerk.

Which being read and considered,

Resolved,

That this House do concur in the said Resolution, that his Excellency be advised to order any Number of Men, not exceeding four thousand of the Militia of this State into *Pennsylvania*, to join the Army under General *Washington*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Ver Bryck* do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith.

Resolved,

That the Sum of *Fifty Shillings* per Month, as a Bounty over and above the continental Pay, shall be allowed to the non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the Militia of this State now on military Duty within the same, to commence from this Date; and also to those who shall hereafter be called into actual Service, and so in Proportion for the Time they are in Service, until it shall be otherwise directed by Act of the Legislature.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Ver Bryck* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Manning* reported, that Mr. *Ver Bryck* and himself obeyed the Orders of the House.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Saturday, September 13, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, September 13, 1777.

HEREWITH lay before you a Letter from his Excellency President *Wharton*, on the Subject of our calling out into Service as Part of our Militia, the Workmen employed by the State of *Pennsylvania* at the Salt-Works at *Tom's River*, which will properly fall under your Consideration when you come to revise our Militia Law during the present Sitting.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which, with the Letter therein mentioned, was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Representation of Colonel *Symmes*, setting forth, that the Militia of *Suffex* County had been frequently called forth to suppress disaffected Persons in that County, that they had not received any Pay for their Services, and praying the House to appoint some Persons to adjust and settle their Accounts; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Tallman*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to restrain the Exportation of Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, and other Naval Stores from the State of New-Jersey*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Brigadier *Forman* having made a Proposal to the House for raising and supporting a Company of Artillery in the County of *Monmouth*; on the Question,

U u

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Cook* be a Committee to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

The Bond given by *John Stevens*, Jun. Esquire, present Treasurer of this State, and the Honourable *John Stevens*, Esquire, his Surety for the due Execution of the said Office of Treasurer, was laid before the House for their Approbation: Whereupon the House being satisfied with the Security contained in the said Bond,

Resolved,

That this House do approve thereof, and that the said Bond, together with a Certificate signed by *John Stevens* and *Jonathan Deare*, respecting a Bond of *John Smyth*, Esquire, late Treasurer, and his Securities, be delivered to the Secretary of this State, to be by him kept for the Use of the State.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Shreve* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Drake* reported, that Mr. *Shreve* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants to elect Town-Officers in such Townships and Precincts where the same has been neglected at the usual Time of holding their Town-Meetings, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Law, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Manning* do carry the said Bills to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sebring* and Mr. *Mickle* be a Committee to bring in a Bill, to revive and continue the Bill, intituled, *An Act for regulating Roads and Bridges*.

The House adjourned till three o'Clock, P. M.

The House met.

His Excellency's Message of this Day, with a Letter from His Excellency President *Wharton*, on the Subject of calling into Service as a Part of our Militia, the Workmen employed by the State of *Pennsylvania* at the Salt-Works at *Tom's River*, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mott* bring in a Bill to exempt the said Workmen.

Mr. *Mott*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Company of Artillery out of the Militia of the State of New-Jersey*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr.

Mr. *Sebring*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating Roads and Bridges*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning nine o'Clock.

Monday, September 15, 1777.

The House met.

Edward Fleming, Esquire, being returned a Representative for the County of *Essex*, the Return and Certificate of his Election was read, and the Oaths prescribed by the Act for regulating Elections being tendered to Mr. *Fleming*, he informed the House that he could not make Oath of his having been a Freeholder in the County of *Essex* one whole Year last past: Whereupon the House having taken the same into Consideration, are of Opinion, that he cannot by Law be admitted to a Seat in the House.

Resolved,

That *Edward Fleming* and *Thomas Denny*, Esquires, or either of them, be empowered to apply to Congress for fifty thousand Cartridges, or Powder and Lead in Proportion, for supplying the Militia of this State, on the present Emergency; and in case a Supply cannot be procured from Congress, that then the said *Edward Fleming* and *Thomas Denny*, or either of them, be authorised to purchase the same elsewhere, to the Amount of *Five Hundred Pounds*, and draw on the Treasurer for the Money to defray the Costs and Expences that may accrue thereon, whose Receipt shall discharge the Treasurer for so much Money as he shall pay in consequence of this Resolution.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Sebring* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Coxe* reported, that Mr. *Sebring* and himself delivered the Message with them intrusted, to the Vice-President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, Sept. 15, 1777.

I HEREWITH transnit you a Resolution of Congress of Yesterday's Date, respecting the procuring of as many Blankets as can be spared, to supply the Soldiers of General *Washington's* Army, many of whom have lost their Blankets in the late Action of the *Brandywine*, and cannot be supplied by the State of *Pennsylvania*, the Cost of which will be defrayed by the United States. The Requisition is indeed to the Governor and Council, but as the Provision for the Purchase of the Blankets by the Persons who may be appointed for that Purpose must be made by the Assembly, the Affair ought to originate in your House.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Mebelm*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act for constituting a Council of Safety*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

His

His Excellency's Message of this Day, was read the second Time, with the Resolve of Congress therein referred to. And Congress having requested that the Inhabitants of the Western Division of this State be called upon to furnish as many Blankets as can be spared, to supply the Soldiers in General *Washington's* Army, many of whom have lost their Blankets in the late Action of the *Brandywine*,

Resolved,

That *Benjamin Stites* in the County of *Cape-May*, *Ephraim Seeley* in the County of *Cumberland*, *John Holme* in the County of *Salem*, *Thomas Denny* in the County of *Gloucester*, *Anthony Taylor* in the County of *Burlington*, *Jared Sexton* in the County of *Hunterdon*, and *Robert Maxwell* in the County of *Suffex*, be, and they are hereby appointed Commissioners to purchase Blankets for the Use of the said Army. And that any one of the Members or the Commissioner for each respective County before mentioned, be empowered to draw on the Treasury for any Sum not exceeding *Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds*, for the Purpose aforesaid, whose Receipt shall be a Discharge to the Treasurer for the Money by him paid. And that the several Commissioners may employ Persons under them to purchase in each Township in their respective Counties. That the Blankets be delivered to Congress, or their Order; and that five *per Cent.* be allowed to the Commissioners respectively for their Trouble, besides all reasonable Expences of Carriage.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Cook* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Cox*.

Council-Chamber, Sept. 15, 1777.

THE Council having taken into Consideration the Message from the House of Assembly of this Day, respecting the procuring of fifty thousand Cartridges for the Use of the Militia of this State;

Resolved,

That the House concur in the Resolution contained in the said Message.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, Sept. 15, 1777.

I LAY before you with this Message, the Petition of Mrs. *M'Niel*, the Widow of the late gallant Major *M'Niel*, who, with invincible Fortitude, fell fighting for his Country; together with an honourable Testimonial of several respectable Magistrates and Freeholders of the County of *Essex*, in her Behalf. That her present Situation is truly deplorable, and that she is an Object worthy the Attention of this Honourable House, considering the important Services and illustrious Fall of her late Husband, can, I think, admit of no Doubt. And while you are extending your Munificence to the distressed Widow and Orphans of that brave Officer, it will reflect Honour on this State, in whose Service he first entered, as well as excite others to emulate his distinguished Valour, to perpetuate his own Memory by some sepulchral Monument; which is agreeable to the Practice of all civilized Nations, and a Kind of Tribute due to those who nobly fall in Defence of Liberty and their Country.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which, with the Petition of Mrs. *Niel*, and a Recommendation of a Number of Magistrates, and others, Freeholders in the County of *Essex*, in her Behalf, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cooper.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. Cooper acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message, received on Friday last, respecting the Allowance of *Two Pounds Ten Shillings* per Month, per Man, to such of the Militia of this State, as now are, or hereafter shall be called into actual Service, as a Bounty over and above the continental Pay.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cooper.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. Cooper acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolutions contained in their Message of the 13th Instant, received this Day, respecting the Treasurer's Bond, &c.

Mr. Mott reported, that Mr. Cook and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

Whereas at this Time there is an absolute Necessity for conveying Ammunition immediately to the Militia, at, or near *Elizabeth-Town*; therefore,

Resolved,

That *Edward Fleming* and *Thomas Denny*, Esquires, or either of them, have Power to impress Horses and Waggon, if they find it necessary, for the expediting the said Ammunition to the Place aforesaid, they allowing the continental Pay for such Horses and Waggon, and not detaining them more than eight Days in Service.

Ordered,

That Mr. Tallman and Mr. Bowen do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

Mr. Tallman reported, that Mr. Bowen and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 15, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day, respecting the empowering *Edward Fleming* and *Thomas Denny*, Esquires, to impress Waggon, &c.

A Petition was presented from the Owners and Possessors of Meadow lying on *Salem Creek*, between *Fishing Island* and *Mud Creek*, in *Lower-Penn's-Neck*, in the County of *Salem*, praying a Law to enable them to erect and keep in Repair a sufficient Tide-Bank and other Water-Works, to prevent the Tide from overflowing the same, &c. which was read.

Ordered,

That the Petitioners have Leave to bring in a Bill.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Tuesday, September 16, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. Keasby, pursuant to Leave given, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to enable the Owners and Possessors of Meadows, lying between Fishing Island and Mud Creek, bounding on Salem Creek, in the County of Salem,*

to erect and keep in Repair the Dams, Banks, Shuices, and other Water-Works, to open and keep clear the necessary Water-Courses, and to make such Line-Ditches as are therein described, lawful Fences; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 16, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolutions contained in their Message of Yesterday, respecting the Purchase of Blankets for the Soldiers in General Washington's Army.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to restrain the Exportation of Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, and other Naval Stores from the State of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Petition was presented from the Officers of the first Regiment of *Monmouth* Militia, setting forth, that they conceive the Militia Law of this State does not produce the good Effects thereby intended, respecting the Militia turning out in Cases of Emergency, &c. and requesting that such a Law may be passed as will compel personal Service, &c. which was read, and referred to the Committee on the Militia Bill.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Wednesday, September 17, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating Roads and Bridges*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A Letter to the Speaker from *Richard Stevens*, Esquire, was laid before the House, containing Proposals for erecting a Salt-Works in this State, and to deliver all the Salt he makes, at a certain Price therein mentioned, for a Term of Years; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to restrain the Exportation of Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, and other Naval Stores from the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating Roads and Bridges*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Ver Bryck*, do carry the said Bills to the Council for their Concurrence.

Mr.

Mr. *Holmes* reported, that Mr. *Ver Bryck* and himself delivered the Bills with them entrusted, to the President in Council.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

The Speaker informed the House, that he had delivered to the Secretary the present Treasurer's Bond, &c. agreeable to a Resolve of the Council and Assembly.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for constituting a Council of Safety*, was read the second Time, and debated Paragraph by Paragraph; and Debate arising on the 12th Section of the said Bill; on the Question, Whether the same is agreed to? It passed as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Dey</i> ,	Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Keasby</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Vandike</i> ,	Mr. <i>Somers</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Sebring</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,	Mr. <i>Shreve</i> .
Mr. <i>Combs</i> ,	Mr. <i>Ver Bryck</i> ,	Mr. <i>Bowen</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Drake</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mehelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Cook</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Hathorn</i> ,	
Mr. <i>Shaffar</i> ,	Mr. <i>Tallman</i> ,	Mr. <i>Eldredge</i> .	
Mr. <i>Peterfon</i> ,			

On the Question, on the 13th Section, Whether agreed to? It passed as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Dey</i> ,	Mr. <i>Peterfon</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Somers</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Vandike</i> ,	Mr. <i>Price</i> ,	Mr. <i>Tallman</i> ,
Mr. <i>Combs</i> ,	Mr. <i>Sebring</i> ,	Mr. <i>Keasby</i> ,	Mr. <i>Shreve</i> ,
Mr. <i>Cook</i> ,	Mr. <i>Ver Bryck</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,	Mr. <i>Bowen</i> ,
Mr. <i>Shaffar</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mehelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> .	Mr. <i>Hathorn</i> ,
			Mr. <i>Eldredge</i> .

On the Question, on the 14th Section, Whether agreed to? It passed as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. <i>Dey</i> ,	Mr. <i>Brown</i> ,	Mr. <i>Somers</i> ,	Mr. <i>Combs</i> ,
Mr. <i>Board</i> ,	Mr. <i>Vandike</i> ,	Mr. <i>Keasby</i> ,	Mr. <i>Holmes</i> ,
Mr. <i>Camp</i> ,	Mr. <i>Ver Bryck</i> ,	Mr. <i>Harris</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mott</i> ,
Mr. <i>Cook</i> ,	Mr. <i>Mehelm</i> ,	Mr. <i>Bowen</i> ,	Mr. <i>Shreve</i> ,
Mr. <i>Shaffar</i> ,	Mr. <i>Coxe</i> ,	Mr. <i>Buck</i> ,	Mr. <i>Price</i> ,
Mr. <i>Peterfon</i> ,	Mr. <i>Tallman</i> ,	Mr. <i>Eldredge</i> .	Mr. <i>Hathorn</i> .

The House having gone through the Bill; on the Question, Whether the same be engrossed? It was carried in the Affirmative.

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Speaker laid before the House a Paper he received from Mr. *Stevens*, respecting the Treasury; which was read, and is as follows:

Account of all the Monies, Bonds and Mortgages in the Eastern Treasury-Chest, *August 6, 1776.*

A sealed up Bag of cancelled Money for *May*,

1775, as per Certificate, - - - - £. 10715: 5: 0

Ditto for *May*, 1776, per Ditto, - - - - 4819: 5: 9

£. 15534: 10: 9

Received

July 1.	Received of Mr. <i>James Parker</i> ,			
1776.	on his and <i>Stephen Skinner's</i>			
	Bond, - - -	£.	933	: 12 : 6
July 15.	Ditto of <i>John Mehelm</i> and <i>Jonathan D. Sergeant</i> , Esquires,			
	by Order of the Convention,		4944	: 19 : 6
August 1.	Ditto of Mr. <i>John Smyth</i> , per			
	Colonel <i>Mehelm</i> , - -		436	: 10 : 0
August 6.	Ditto of Ditto, per Ditto, -		719	: 12 : 6
<hr/>				
			£.	7034 : 14 : 6

The above Sum of *Seven Thousand and Thirty-four Pounds, Fourteen Shillings and Six-pence*, with *Lord Stirling's* Mortgage, *Gabriel Ogden's* Mortgage, and *Stephen Skinner's* and *James Parker's* Bond, are deposited in the Iron Treasury Chest.

The above-mentioned Sum of *Fifteen Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-four Pounds, Ten Shillings and Nine-pence*, of cancelled Money, was burned by *John Fell*, *John Mehelm* and *Charles Cox*, Esquires, March 24, 1777. *Errors excepted.*

JOHN STEVENS.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Thursday, September 18, 1777.

The House met.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Accounts of sundry Persons in the County of *Suffex*, respecting a Guard ordered to be kept at the Court-house in the said County, and the Support of Prisoners, and make Report to the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman* and Mr. *Vandike* do wait on the Council, and desire them to appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Tallman* reported, that Mr. *Vandike* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 18, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* carry the Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Law, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Amendments:

Whereupon the said Bill with the Amendments in their Places, were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Sinnickson*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 18, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* and Mr. *Condict*, or either of them, be a Committee to join with a Committee of the House of Assembly, to settle the Accounts of sundry Persons in the County of *Suffex*, respecting a Guard ordered to be kept at the Court-house in the said County, and the Support of Prisoners, and make Report thereof to this House; and that

that the said Committees meet for that Purpose at the House of *Hugh Creighton*, at four o'Clock this Afternoon.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Sinnicksen* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 18, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* carry the Bill, intituled, *An Act to ascertain the Punishment for High Treason, and to establish the Word State instead of Colony, in all Commissions, Writs, and other Procefs, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Bill.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Hand*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 18, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Cox* be added to the Committee, appointed of the 8th of February last, to join the Committee of the House of Assembly, to settle the Accounts of such of the Members of the Legislature as have purchased Cloathing for the continental Army; and that Mr. *Hand* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Mr. *Brown* from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of sundry Persons in the County of *Suffex*, &c. made the following Report, to which the House agreed.

YOUR Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of sundry Persons in the County of *Suffex*, respecting a Guard ordered to be kept at the Courthouse in the said County, and for the Support of Prisoners, beg Leave to report;

That we find due to Captain *Conrad Guntryman*, and

Company, for guarding continental Prisoners, as

per Payroll, No. 1, the Sum of - - - £. 78:19:8

To Ditto, per Ditto 2, for the above Purpose, - 129:15:2

To Ditto, per Ditto 3, for the above Purpose, - 108: 7:0

To Ditto, per Ditto 4, for the above Purpose, - 115:10:9

To Captain *John Pippenger*, and Company, as per

Payroll, No. 5, for the above Purpose, - 21: 9:4

To *William Purine*, for his Time and Expences sup-

porting continental Prisoners, as per Account, - 79: 6:1

To *Philip Dudder*, Esquire, for Expences attending

and settling the above, - - - 6: 0:0

£. 539: 8:0

SILAS CONDUCT,

ABIA BROWN,

JACOB DRAKE.

September 19, 1777.

The Committee appointed yesterday "to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of sundry Persons in the County of *Suffex*, respecting a Guard ordered to be kept at the Courthouse in the said County, and support of Prisoners," having reported, that the said Committees had met and settled the said Accounts according to Order, and that they find due thereon to Captain *Conrad Guntryman* and Cap-

tain *John Pippenger*, and their respective Companies, for guarding continental Prisoners, *Four Hundred and Fifty-four Pounds One Shilling and Eleven Pence*; and to *William Purine* and *Philip Dudder*, Esquires, for their Time and Expences in supporting the said continental Prisoners, the Sum of *Eighty-five Pounds Six Shillings and One Penny*, making in the whole *Five Hundred and Thirty-nine Pounds Eight Shillings*.

And the House having taken the said Report into Consideration, and approved thereof,

Resolved,

That the Treasurer pay the said Sum of *Five Hundred and Thirty-nine Pounds Eight Shillings*, to the said *Philip Dudder*, Esquire, for the Use of himself and the other Persons above-named, to whom the same is found due.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Camp* and *Mr. Harris* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

A Remonstrance of a Number of Militia Officers now stationed at *Woodbury*, was read, praying that a Law may be passed obliging the Militia of this State, either in Person or by Substitute, speedily to render their Service in the Field; which was read, and referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Militia Bill.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for constituting a Council of Safety*, was read and compared; and, on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Affirmative, as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
<i>Mr. Dey,</i>	<i>Mr. Peterson,</i>	<i>Mr. Tallman,</i>	<i>Mr. Holmes,</i>
<i>Mr. Board,</i>	<i>Mr. Brown,</i>	<i>Mr. Somers,</i>	<i>Mr. Mott,</i>
<i>Mr. Camp,</i>	<i>Mr. Vandike,</i>	<i>Mr. Keasby,</i>	<i>Mr. Shreve,</i>
<i>Mr. Combs,</i>	<i>Mr. Sebring,</i>	<i>Mr. Harris,</i>	<i>Mr. Price.</i>
<i>Mr. Drake,</i>	<i>Mr. Ver. Bryck,</i>	<i>Mr. Buck,</i>	
<i>Mr. Cook,</i>	<i>Mr. Mebelm,</i>	<i>Mr. Hatborn,</i>	
<i>Mr. Shaffar,</i>	<i>Mr. Cox,</i>	<i>Mr. Eldredge.</i>	

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That *Mr. Mebelm* and *Mr. Tallman* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence thereto.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Friday, September 19, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by *Mr. Secretary Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

Haddonfield, September 19, 1777.

OUR Militia having apprehended near seventy disaffected Persons, on their March to join the Enemy on *Staten-Island*, whom they have under Guard at *Pitts-Town*, and the commanding Officer of the Party who has the present Custody of them, having applied for Directions how to dispose of them, it is proposed to order them either to *Hunterdon* or *Burlington Gaol*; but how to supply them, as well as the Guards that will be necessary to prevent their Escape, with Provisions, is a Matter that will require your Interposition. I would therefore recommend it to the House to appoint some Person to provide them accordingly,

ingly, with as much Dispatch as the Hurry of your other Business will admit of.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to ascertain the Punishment for High Treason, &c.* was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Law, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, with the Council's Amendments in their Places, were read the second Time; on the Question, Whether the House agrees thereto? The House agreed to the first Amendment, and disagreed in Part to the second: Whereupon an Amendment being proposed by this House to the Amendment of the Council, and agreed to by them,

Ordered,

That the said Bill, as amended and agreed to, be re-engrossed.

Mr. Mehelm, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain and amend an Act, intituled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia, and the Supplemental Act thereto*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Sinnickson.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 19, 1777.

THAT Mr. Sinnickson acquaint the House of Assembly that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Morning, respecting the Payment of *Five Hundred and Thirty-nine Pounds Eight Shillings* to Philip Dudder, Esquire, for the Utes in the said Resolution mentioned.

The Minutes of the Proceedings of the Council of Safety being laid before the House,

Ordered,

That Mr. Ver Bryck and Mr. Eldredge be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council, to inspect the said Minutes, so far as relates to the Expenditure of the Money drawn from the Treasury, and make Report thereof to the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. Drake and Mr. Holmes do wait on the Council, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. Mehelm reported, that Mr. Tallman and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Whereas by a Letter from Charles Stewart, Esquire, Commissary-General of Issues, it appears, there is an absolute Necessity that a Number of Teams should be impressed with all possible Expedition, to assist in removing the Stores in the Commissary-Department from the City of Philadelphia, in order to prevent their falling into the Hands of the Enemy;

Resolved,

That Colonel Joseph Ellis, and the Officers of his Battalion of Militia, and each and every of them, have Power to impress such and so many Waggon and Horses, or Oxen, as shall be sufficient and necessary to assist the said Commissary in removing the said Stores as aforesaid; that the Owners of the said Teams be entitled to receive the continental Pay for the

the Time they shall be in Service, and that the Teams, as fast as they are impressed, be forwarded to *Cooper's Ferry* for the Purpose aforesaid.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Holmes* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Drake* reported, that Mr. *Holmes* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Cooper*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 19, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Hand* be a Committee to join with the Committee of the House of Assembly, to inspect the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Council of Safety, so far as relates to the Expenditure of the Money drawn from the Treasury, and make Report thereof to the House; and that the said Committees meet for that Purpose at the House of *Samuel Kinnard*, at three o'Clock this Afternoon.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Cooper* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Cooper*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 19, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Cooper* acquaint the House of Assembly, that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day, respecting Powers thereby given to Colonel *Joseph Ellis* and the Officers of his Battalion, to impress Waggons, &c. to assist in removing the Stores in the Commissary-Department from *Philadelphia*.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain and amend an Act, intituled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia, and the Supplemental Act thereto*, was read the second Time, and debated Paragraph by Paragraph; and, on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the Evidence offered by *Samuel Tucker*, Esquire, at the last Sitting, respecting the Loss of the publick Money and Papers that were in his Care; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that it was the Opinion of the Committee that the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly, for further Inquiry and Consideration; to which the House agreed.

Resolved,

That the Bond given by *Samuel Tucker*, Esquire, and *Thomas Lowrey* and *Abraham Hunt*, his Sureties for the due Execution of the Office of one of the Treasurers of the late Provincial Congress, be lodged with the Secretary, for the Use of the State.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Saturday, September 20, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to enable the Owners and Possessors of Meadows*

dows lying between Fishing Island and Mud Creek, bounding on Salem Creek, &c. to erect and keep in Repair the Banks, Dams, &c. was read the second Time ; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

A general Abstract of Pay for Prisoners, taken on the 13th of *February* last, to the 13th of *September* Instant, made out by Brigadier *Forman*, was laid before the House ; on which the Opinion of the House was requested by the Paymasters of the Militia of this State, Whether they were at Liberty to pay the Wages of Prisoners ?

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this House that the Paymasters be directed to pay the Wages of Prisoners that have been taken by the Enemy, from the Time they were taken until the Time they respectively deceased, or returned Home ; the Time being properly ascertained by any Officer, or other Person in whose Power it may be to certify the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs* and Mr. *Peterfon* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

A Memorial from *Elijah Clark* and *Richard Wescott*, Esquires, was read, setting forth, that they had erected, at their own Expence, a small Fort at the *Fox-Burrows*, near the Port of *Little-Egg-Harbour*, and had purchased a Number of Cannon for the Defence of the said Port, relying on the Publick for Payment of the Expence on that Occasion—That they had disbursed a Sum of Money, an Account whereof is annexed to the said Memorial, and praying a Re-imbursment of the Monies so advanced : Whereupon the House having taken the same into Consideration,

Resolved,

That the Treasurer pay the Balance due to the said *Elijah Clark* and *Richard Wescott*, being *Four Hundred and Thirty Pounds One Shilling and Three Pence*, and that their Receipt, or the Receipt of either of them, be a Discharge to the Treasurer for Payment thereof—That they be empowered and directed to sell such Stores as are not useful, and pay the Amount into the Treasury, and to take Charge of the said Cannon and necessary Stores for the Use of the State.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Keasby* and Mr. *Hathorn* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence to the said Resolution.

Mr. *Keasby* reported, that Mr. *Hathorn* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Combs* reported, that Mr. *Peterfon* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted, to the President in Council.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to ascertain the Punishment for High Treason, and to establish the Word State instead of Colony, &c.* was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till three o'Clock, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this

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Day,

Day, respecting the Payment of Wages to such of the Militia as have been taken Prisoners by the Enemy.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict acquaint the House of Assembly that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day, respecting the Payment of *Four Hundred and Thirty Pounds One Shilling and Three Pence* to *Elijah Clark* and *Richard Wescott*, Esquires, and other Matters in the said Message contained.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to ascertain the Punishment for High Treason, and to establish the Word State instead of Colony, in Commissions, Writs, and other Process, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The re-engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to revive and continue several Courts of Law, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Ver Bryck and Mr. Camp do carry the said Bills to the Council. Mr. Ver Bryck reported, that Mr. Camp and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Cooper.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. Cooper carry the Bill, intituled, *An Act for the more easy and expeditious Recovery of Penalties on forfeited Recognizances, and for the Appropriation of the Monies arising from the same, and from Fines and Amercements, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 20, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intituled, *An Act to restrain the Exportation of Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, and other Naval Stores from the State of New-Jersey*, is passed by this House without Amendment.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain and amend an Act, intituled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia, and the Supplemental Act thereto*, was read and compared; and, on the Question, Whether the same do pass? It was carried in the Affirmative, as follows:

Yeas.	Yeas.	Yeas.	Nays.
Mr. Dey,	Mr. Brown,	Mr. Somers,	Mr. Mott,
Mr. Board,	Mr. Vandike,	Mr. Dick,	Mr. Holmes,
Mr. Camp,	Mr. Ver Bryck,	Mr. Harris,	Mr. Shreve.
Mr. Drake,	Mr. Sebring,	Mr. Buck,	
Mr. Cook,	Mr. Mcbelm,	Mr. Hathorn,	
Mr. Shaffar,	Mr. Coxe,	Mr. Eldredge.	
Mr. Peterson,	Mr. Tallman,		

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Drake* do carry the said Bill to the Council, for their Concurrence.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for the more easy and expeditious Recovery of Penalties on forfeited Recognizances, and for the Appropriation of the Monies arising from the same, &c.* was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning nine o'Clock.

Monday, September 22, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Company of Artillery out of the Militia of the State of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Drake* and himself had obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for the more easy and expeditious Recovery of Penalties on forfeited Recognizances, and for the Appropriation of the Monies arising from the same, and from Fines and Amercements, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Eldredge* and Mr. *Peterfon* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that the same is passed by this House, without any Amendment.

Mr. *Eldredge* reported, that Mr. *Peterfon* and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted, to the Vice-President in Council.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Company of Artillery out of the Militia of the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to enable the Owners and Possessors of Meadows lying between Filhing Island and Mud Creek, bounding on Salem Creek, in the County of Salem, to erect and keep in Repair the Dams, Banks, Sluices, and other Water-Works, to open and keep clear the necessary Water-Courses, and to make such Line-Ditches as are therein described, lawful Fences*; was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Keasby* do carry the said Bills to the Council, for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Dick* reported, that Mr. *Keasby* and himself delivered the Bills with them entrusted, to the President in Council.

A Message

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Hand*.

Ordered, Council-Chamber, Sept. 20, 1777.
THAT Mr. *Hand* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intituled, *An Act for constituting a Council of Safety*, is passed by this House without any Amendment.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act for erecting a publick Salt-Works, and for manufacturing Salt within the State of New-Jersey*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Petition of *Henry Jones* and Company, presented at the last Sitting, was read the second Time, praying an Exemption for ten Men from Militia Duties, (except in Case of Emergency) to be employed at their Salt-Works in *Cape-May County*; and, on the Question, Whether the Prayer of the Petition be granted? It passed in the Negative.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen, Haddonfield, Sept. 21, 1777.
BEING fully persuaded that the Mode pointed out by the Resolution of the two Houses, respecting the procuring of Blankets for our Troops, will not prove effectual for the Purpose, I think it my Duty to recommend it to you to adopt some other Measure for securing a Supply of that indispensable Article.

Those who are real Friends to the glorious Cause in which we are engaged have already spared all their supernumerary Blankets, and many of them, in the Ardour of their Zeal, even stripped themselves of necessary Covering.

The Persons now possessed of a Superflux are generally the disaffected, who would rather hoard up every Article wanted by our Army, to embarrass and distress it, than part with any Thing in their Possession for its Relief and Accommodation. From such, therefore, we can expect no voluntary Supply; and consequently, while the Matter remains on its present Footing, we may rest assured that our poor Soldiers, who are venturing their Lives for the publick Defence, must endure all the Rigours of the approaching inclement Season without Covering; while our unnatural domestick Enemies will make a Kind of infernal Merit of with-holding from them what they may easily spare from their own Superabundance, to render many of them comfortable.

The same Measure, therefore, which the Legislature has been pleased to adopt, respecting Fire-Arms and Ammunition, will probably, on further Consideration, appear most adviseable to be pursued in the present Case; and is, perhaps, the only one that will effectuate the desired Purpose.

As Numbers of our Troops may, in a few Days, lose their Lives for Want of what it is in our Power by vigorous Measures to furnish them with, we cannot, I apprehend, answer it to ourselves, to rest contented with having concerted a Plan for that Purpose, which however specious in Theory, we have the greatest Reason to believe will prove inoperative in Practice: This would only be amusing instead of relieving; and blanketting our Soldiers as those, described by St. *James*, fed and clothed the necessitous.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Tuesday,

Tuesday, September 23, 1777.

The House met.

The Memorial of *Charles Pettit*, Esquire, was read the second Time, praying the Encouragement of the Legislature, in erecting a Salt-Works in this State; and, on the Question,

Resolved,

That the Sum of £. 500 be lent to Mr. *Pettit* for one Year, without Interest; and that he have Leave to bring in a Bill for that Purpose.

The Petition of *John Jacob Faish*, Proprietor of the Iron-Works at *Mount-Hope*, in *Morris* County, praying an Exemption from military Service for such Number of Men as shall be found necessary to carry on the said Works, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the Petitioner have Leave to bring in a Bill.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Members of the Legislature to give due Attendance in the respective Houses, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

The Petition of *Jonathan Squires* and *William Cook*, complaining that some of the Soldiers of the first and ninth *Virginia* Regiments came to their Houses, in *March* last, and abused their Families, and carried away sundry Effects, &c. was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly; and that the Petitioners cause Affidavits to be made of the Facts set forth in their Petition, and lay them before the next Assembly.

The Representation of Colonel *Symmes*, setting forth, that a Number of Militia of *Suffex* County had been frequently called upon to suppress disaffected Persons in that County, for which Services they have not received any Pay; and requesting that Persons may be appointed to adjust and settle the Accounts, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Shaffar*, Mr. *Peterfon* and Mr. *Brown*, be a Committee to settle the said Accounts, and make Report to the next Sitting of Assembly.

A Number of Petitions from Persons wounded and disabled in the Service of the State, and of the Widows of such as have lost their Lives, and others taken Prisoners in the said Service, were read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp*, Mr. *Cook*, Mr. *Drake* and Mr. *Coxe*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for their Relief.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill referred from last Sitting, intituled, *An Act for recovering the Arrearages of the Ten Thousand Pounds Tax, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the third Time, and debated; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Board* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint

acquaint them that the same is passed by this House without any Amendment.

A Memorial having been presented by Brigadier *Newcomb*, setting forth, that there are several Horses belonging to the Militia, under his Command, stationed at *Woodbury*, and necessarily employed in the Service, and no Person authorized to provide Forage for the said Horses, and requesting he may be empowered to appoint some Person for that Purpose;

Resolved,

That Brigadier *Newcomb* be empowered to appoint a proper Person for the Purpose aforesaid.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs* and Mr. *Sebring* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence to this Resolution.

A Memorial was presented by *Charles Hoff*, jun. Superintendent of *Hibernia* Iron-Works, on the Part of the Proprietors of the said Works, praying that the Men employed at said Works may be exempted from military Duty, in order that he may be enabled to comply with the Orders of the General of Artillery for manufacturing of Cannon, Cannon Ball and Grape Shot, &c. for the publick Use; which was read; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the Memorialist have Leave to bring in a Bill.

Mr. *Camp*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act for the Relief of such of the Militia who have been wounded and disabled, and the Widows and Children of those who have lost their Lives in the Service of the State*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Combs* reported, that Mr. *Sebring* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted, to the President in Council.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 23, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain and amend an Act, intituled, An Act for the better regulating the Militia, and the Supplemental Act thereto*, is passed by this House without any Amendment.

Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had delivered to the Secretary the Bond given by *Samuel Tucker*, Esquire, and his Sureties for the due Execution of the Office of one of the Treasurers of the late Provincial Congress, pursuant to the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 23, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Council have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day, empowering Brigadier *Newcomb* to appoint a proper Person to provide Forage for the Horses necessarily employed by the Militia stationed at *Woodbury*.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Wednesday,

Wednesday, September 24, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. Drake, pursuant to Leave given, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at Mount-Hope Furnace, and the Forges thereunto belonging, and the Hibernia Furnace, all in the County of Morris, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Mehelm, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to the Act, intituled, An Act of free and general Pardon, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Ordered,

That Mr. Coxe, Mr. Camp, Mr. Combs, Mr. Cook, Mr. Mott, Mr. Sebring, Mr. Shreve, Mr. Tallman and M. Eldredge, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council, in a free Conference on the Subject-Matter of dividing the State into Districts; and appointing Persons to recruit Men in each District for the continental Service.

Ordered,

That Mr. Holmes and Mr. Drake do wait on the Council, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

Ordered,

That Mr. Combs and Mr. Brown be a Committee to bring in a Bill for defraying incidental Charges.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Hand.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 24, 1777.

THAT Mr. Hand acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intituled, *An Act to empower the Inhabitants to elect Town-Officers in such Townships or Precincts where the same has been neglected at the usual Time of holding their Town-Meetings, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, is passed the Council without any Amendment.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Hand.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 24, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict, Mr. Cox and Mr. Sinnickson, or any two of them, and such other Members as shall choose to attend, be a Committee to join with the Committee of the House of Assembly, in a free Conference on the Subject-Matter of dividing the State into Districts; and appointing Persons in each District to recruit Men for the continental Service; and that the said Committees meet, for the Purposes aforesaid, at the House of Hugh Creighton, at eleven o'Clock this Morning.

Ordered,

That Mr. Hand acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The Members withdrew to attend a Joint-Meeting, &c. and being returned, Mr. Speaker took the Chair.

The House adjourned to meet at *Princeton* on *Monday* next, the 29th of this Instant, *September*.

PRINCETON, Monday, September 29, 1777.

SEVERAL of the Members met, and there not being a sufficient Number to proceed on Business, they adjourned till to-morrow Morning ten o'Clock; and in like Manner met and adjourned from Day to Day until *Thursday* the 2d of *October* following.

Thursday, October 2, 1777.

The House met, and adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met, pursuant to Adjournment.

Ordered,

That *Ethan Smith* be Doorkeeper to the House, during this Sitting.

A Petition was presented from *Susanna Danielson*, setting forth, that her Husband has been enlisted fourteen Months in the Service of the State, and has left her with four small Children destitute of Necessaries, and praying Relief; which was read; on the Question,

Ordered,

To lie on the Table.

The Speaker laid before the House a Letter from Brigadier *Winds*, enclosing a Payroll of a Company of Volunteers commanded by Captain *Richard Johnson*; which Company, on the Promise of Pay, Brigadier *Winds* informs the House, has been of signal Service to the State; and that the Paymaster had declined paying the said Company without an Order for that Purpose, and praying the Directions of the House; which Letter and Payroll were read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Petition was presented by *Rebecca Vandike*, praying, for Reasons therein set forth, that the House would order Restitution of her Husband's Estate, which has been sold by the Commissioners of *Somerset* County, in Pursuance of the Act of free and general Pardon, &c. which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for the Relief of such of the Militia who have been wounded and disabled*, &c. was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Clark*.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Friday, October 3, 1777.

The House met.

A Petition was presented by *Mary Williams*, Wife of *Nathaniel Williams*, setting forth, that her Husband being gone to the Enemy, she was apprehensive of being sent with her Children within the Enemy's Lines, and praying that they may be suffered to remain in this State, &c. which was read; on the Question,

Ordered,

That that Part of the said Petition relative to the Petitioner's Removal out of the State, be referred to the President and Council of Safety.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tallman*, Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Cook*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for furnishing a Magazine of Arms, Ammunition, and other warlike Stores, in this State.

A Message

A Message from his Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit.

Gentlemen,

IT is represented to me that there remains a large Number of Cattle along the Sound between *Elizabeth-Town* and *Amboy*, which are in imminent Danger of being carried off by the Enemy stationed on *Staten-Island*; their late Irruption into those Parts for such predatory Purpose, and the Success which attended their Attempt, ought undoubtedly to excite our utmost Caution to prevent a similar Enterprize: I would therefore recommend it to the House to enable the Council of Safety by a Resolution of both Houses, to order the Removal of any Cattle that may be in Danger of falling into the Hands of the Enemy, into Places of greater Safety.

Princeton, Oct. 3, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from his Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit.

Gentlemen,

IT has been found by Experience to be greatly detrimental to the Militia of *Newark* and the Precinct of *Aquakanonck*, from the political Turn of the latter, to be divided into two Battalions: It would be more conducive to the publick Interest to have them consolidated into one Regiment, and commanded by proper Officers. After their being so incorporated, it is the Opinion of some respectable Characters in that County, that *Samuel Hays*, Esquire, would be a proper Person for Lieutenant-Colonel; *Thomas Pierſon*, Esquire, for first Major, and *Caleb Dodd*, Esquire, for second Major; and *James Hedden*, for Adjutant.

Princeton, Oct. 3, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at Mount-Hope Furnace, and the Forges thereunto belonging, and the Hibernia Furnace, all in the County of Morris, from actual Service in the Militia, &c.* was read the second Time, and debated; and, on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for erecting a publick Salt-Works, &c. within the State of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time; and committed to Mr. Clark, Mr. Combs and Mr. Mott.

Mr. Combs, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act for defraying sundry incidental Charges*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 24, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intituled, *An Act to enable the Owners and Possessors of Meadows lying between Fishing Island and Mud Creek, bounding on Salem Creek, in the County of Salem, to erect and keep in Repair the Dams, Banks, Sluices, and other Water-Works, and to open and clear the necessary Water-Courses, and to make such Line-Ditches as are therein described, lawful Fences*: And the Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Company of Artillery out of the Militia of the State of New-Jersey*, are passed by this House without any Amendments.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Sept. 24, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Condict* carry the Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige certain Persons therein described, to take the Oaths of Abjuration and Allegiance*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Bill.

Whereupon the said Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. *Mott*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at the Pennsylvania Salt-Works in this State, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Letter from Brigadier *Winds*, respecting Pay for a Company of Volunteers under the Command of Captain *Richard Johnson*, and also the Payroll for the said Company, were read the second Time; and the same being considered,—It is the unanimous Opinion of the House, that the Paymaster ought to pay the Amount of the said Payroll as certified by Brigadier *Winds*.

The Petition of *Rebecca Vandike*, praying that the Amount of the Estate of her Husband, sold by the Commissioners of *Somerſet*, may be restored to her, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That the same be deferred for further Consideration.

Mr. *Mott* brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at the Independent Salt-Works in the County of Gloucester, from actual Service in the Militia*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Saturday, October 4, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at the Pennsylvania Salt-Works in this State, from actual Service in the Militia*, &c. was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

On Motion,

Ordered,

That Mr. *Clark* have Leave to bring in a Supplement to the Act, intituled, *An Act for regulating Elections*, &c.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at the Independent Salt-Works in the County of Gloucester*, was read the second Time, and committed to Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Mott*.

His Excellency's Message of Yesterday, respecting the Battalions of *Newark* and *Aquakanonck*, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Camp* have Leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate the said Battalions into one Regiment or Battalion: Whereupon he brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to incorporate the Battalions of Newark and Aquakanonck in the County of Essex, into one Battalion*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr.

Mr. Clark, pursuant to Leave given, brought in a Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

Mr. Sebring, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to declare the Payment of Money into the Treasury a legal Discharge of Debt in certain Cases*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige certain Persons therein described, to take the Oaths of Abjuration and Allegiance*, was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to incorporate the Battalions of Newark and Aquakanonck in the County of Essex, into one Battalion*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till Monday Morning nine o'Clock.

Monday, October 6, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit.

Gentlemen,

SAMUEL TUTHILL, Esquire, First Judge of the Inferior Court of Common-Pleas, for the County of Morris, has resigned his Commission, by which that Office is become vacant.

Princeton, Oct. 6, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and referred to the Joint-Meeting.

A Message from his Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit.

Gentlemen,

BEING lately informed by Mr. Mac Elroy of Burlington, that he could procure a Quantity of Lead, and knowing in what great Want the State is of that Mineral, I desired him to purchase it. He now informs me by Letter, that he has bought five hundred and seventy-three wt. at *Three Shillings and Six-pence* per lb. and appears extremely urgent to have it immediately removed out of his Possession, for which I hope the House will make instant Provision.

Princeton, Oct. 6, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read and considered: Whereupon the House came to the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the State of *New-Jersey* remains liable to continual Incursions of the Enemy, and, upon Inquiry, is found to be greatly deficient in such Supplies of Ammunition as may be necessary for our common Defence, it is therefore

Resolved,

That His Excellency *William Livingston*, Esquire, or the President of the Council of Safety for the Time being, be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a proper Person or Persons to purchase such Supplies of Powder and Lead, for the Use of this State, as may be procured, or found sufficient for the Defence thereof; and to lodge the same

same in such Parts of this State, with such Orders for distributing the same among the Militia at such Times and in such Manner as the said *William Livingston*, or the President of the Council of Safety shall think proper. And the Treasurer of this State is hereby required to pay to the said *William Livingston*, or the President of the Council of Safety, or Order or Orders, all such Sum and Sums of Money as may be found necessary for the above Purposes ; which Order or Orders, with Receipts thereon, when produced, shall discharge the said Treasurer, his Executors and Administrators, for the Sums therein expressed.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* and Mr. *Mott* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Coxe* reported, that Mr. *Mott* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted, to the President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige certain Persons therein described, to take the Oaths of Abjuration and Allegiance*, was read the third Time ; and, on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Tallman* do carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them that the same is passed by this House, without any Amendment.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at Mount-Hope Furnace, and the Forges thereunto belonging, and the Hibernia Furnace, all in the County of Morris, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to encourage the making of Salt at the Pennsylvania Salt-Works, in the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act to incorporate the Battalions of Newark and Aquakanonck in the County of Essex, into one Battalion*, was read and compared ; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Tallman* do carry the said Bills to the Council, for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Brown*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt twelve Men to be employed at the Sharpsborough Iron-Works in the County of Sussex, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned* ; which was read and ordered a second Reading.

The

The Bill, intituled, *A Supplemental Act to an Act, intituled, An Act of free and general Pardon, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Tuesday, October 7, 1777.

The House met.

Mr. *Brown* reported, that Mr. *Tallman* and himself delivered the Bills with them entrusted, to the President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Ver Bryck* be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of the Expenditure of the last *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* drawn from Congress, for the Payment of the Militia of this State, and make Report to the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Manning* and Mr. *Cook* do wait on the Council, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with the Time and Place of Meeting.

A Remonstrance was presented, signed by *Robert Lawrence*, complaining of the Conduct of Brigadier *Forman*, respecting his sending some Women of this State into the Enemy's Lines, and sundry Grievances; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for erecting Salt-Works and manufacturing Salt within the State of New-Jersey*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to exempt twelve Men to be employed at the Sharpshorough Iron-Works, in the County of Suffex, from actual Service in the Militia, &c.* was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act for erecting Salt-Works, and manufacturing Salt within the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *A Supplemental Act to an Act, intituled, An Act of free and general Pardon, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The engrossed Bill, intitled, *An Act to exempt twelve Men to be employed at the Sharpsborough Iron-Works, in the County of Suffex, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Board* do carry the said Bills to the Council, for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Manning* reported, that Mr. *Cook* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted, to the Vice-President of the Council, the Council not sitting.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Board* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* acquaint the House of Assembly that this House have concurred in the Resolutions contained in their Message of Yesterday, respecting the purchasing Powder and Lead for the Use of the State, and the Distribution of the same.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Wednesday, October 8, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 7, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intitled, *An Act to encourage the making of Salt at the Pennsylvania Salt-Works in the State of New-Jersey*: The Bill, intitled, *An Act to exempt a Number of Men to be employed at Mount-Hope Furnace and the Forges thereunto belonging; and the Hibernia Furnace, all in the County of Morris, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*: And the Bill, intitled, *An Act to incorporate the Battalions of Newark and Aquakanonck, in the County of Essex, into one Battalion*; are passed in this House without any Amendments.

Mr. *Coxe*, with Leave, brought in a Bill, intitled, *An Act to encourage the manufacluring of Salt in the State of New-Jersey*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary *Pettit*.

Gentlemen,

MAJOR General *Dickinson* has, on his present Station, four Field-Pieces, but no Artillery-Men. He has therefore, to supply that Defect for the present, given Certificates to Captains who have some Knowledge in Gunnery, to raise Companies for that Purpose from the Militia to do thirty Days Duty in Camp. He thinks it highly expedient (and I cannot but concur with him in Sentiment) for the Legislature to appoint proper Persons within the State to raise at least three Companies

Companies of Matrosses, to be called out as Occasion may require ; and thinks he can effect it without any Bounty.

The Measure which the General proposes appears absolutely necessary for the Security of the State ; nor can it be expected that our Men will face an Enemy who generally begin their Attack with Cannon, when themselves are only provided with Musketry.

Princeton, Oct. 8, 1777.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which being read ;

Ordered,

That Mr. *Clark*, Mr. *Dick* and Mr. *Coxe*, be a Committee to bring in a Bill for raising some Companies of Artillery, and also two Companies of Horse, in Addition to those heretofore embodied in this State.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Combs*, Mr. *Camp*, Mr. *Harris*, Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Sebring*, or any three of them, be a Committee to join a Committee of the Council, to settle the Accounts of the present Treasurer of this State, and make Report thereof to the House.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Moore*s and Mr. *Peter*son do wait on the Council, and desire they will appoint a Committee for that Purpose, with Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Moore*s reported, that Mr. *Peter*son and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Coxe*.

Council-Chamber, Oct. 8, 1777.

GENERAL *Washington* having permitted Brigadier General *Forman* to discharge the Brigade of *Jersey* Militia, which lately joined the Army in *Pennsylvania*, and at the same Time requested that another Brigade of the Militia may be sent as speedily as possible, to join the said Army ;

Resolved,

That His Excellency the Governor be advised to order any Number of the Militia of this State, not exceeding two thousand Men, under the Command of Brigadier-General *Forman*, to join the Army under the Command of General *Washington* in *Pennsylvania*.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Coxe* wait on the House of Assembly with the foregoing Resolution, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Which Message being read and considered,

Resolved,

That this House do concur in the Resolution contained in the said Message.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Ver Bryck* do wait on the Council, and acquaint them therewith.

Mr. *Clark*, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act for raising several Companies of Artillery, and also two Companies of Horse, in Addition to the three Companies heretofore embodied in this State ;* which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 8, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes*, Mr. *Condict* and Mr. *Cox*, or any two of them, be a Committee to join with the Committee of the House of Assembly

sembly, to settle the Accounts with the Treasurer of this State, and make Report to the House: That the said Committees meet for the Purpose aforesaid at the House of Mr. *Bergen*, in *Princeton*, at six o'Clock this Evening; and that Mr. *Elmer* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The House adjourned till three, *P. M.*

The House met.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Ver Bryck* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted, to Mr. *Paterfon*, one of the Members of the Council, the Council not sitting.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Clark* and Mr. *Mott* do wait on the Council, and desire to be informed, Whether the Council have passed the Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office*, sent up to them for Concurrence the 8th Day of *October*, 1776; as the House hath not heard of the said Bill since that Time.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for raising several Companies of Artillery, and also two Companies of Horse, in Addition to the three Companies heretofore embodied in this State*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

His Excellency's Message, of the 3d Instant, being read the second Time,

Resolved,

That the President and Council of Safety be empowered to order the Removal of any Cattle in this State, that may be in Danger of being carried off by, or falling into the Hands of the Enemy, to Places of greater Safety, on the Owner or Owners of such Cattle neglecting or refusing, after Notice, to remove the same.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mott* and Mr. *Cook* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act for raising several Companies of Artillery, and also two Companies of Horse, in Addition to the three Companies heretofore embodied in this State*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Clark* and Mr. *Mott* do carry the said Bill to the Council, for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Mott* reported, that Mr. *Cook* and himself delivered the Message with them entrusted, to the Vice-President in Council.

Mr. *Clark* reported, that Mr. *Mott* and himself obeyed the Orders of the House.

Mr. *Dick*, from the Committee appointed to prepare the Draught of an Address to His Excellency, brought in a Draught accordingly; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Thursday,

Thursday, October 9, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered, Council-Chamber, Oct. 8, 1777.

THAT Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly that this House have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day, respecting the Removal of such Cattle as may be in Danger of being carried off by, or falling into the Hands of the Enemy, to Places of greater Safety, &c.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered, Council-Chamber, Oct. 8, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict be a Committee to join the Committee of the House of Assembly, to settle the Accounts of the Expenditure of the last *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* drawn from Congress, for the Payment of the Militia of this State, and make Report to the House: That the said Committees meet for that Purpose at the House of Mrs. Lott, in Princeton, at seven o'Clock to-morrow Morning; and that Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. Camp and Mr. Dey do carry the said Bill to the Council, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Mr. Camp reported, that Mr. Dey and himself delivered the Bill with them entrusted, to the Vice-President in Council.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. Holmes, from the Committee appointed for that Purpose, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act for the better settling Intestates Estates*; which was read:

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

The Memorial of *Robert Lawrence*, respecting the Conduct of Brigadier *Forman*, &c. was read the second Time; and it being near the Close of the Session, and the House not having Time to go into an Inquiry on the Facts therein set forth,

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Sitting of Assembly.

Ordered,

That Mr. Cook be added to the Committee appointed the 19th of September last to join a Committee of the Council to inspect the Minutes of the Council of Safety, so far as relates to the Expenditure of the Money drawn from the Treasury: And that Mr. Camp and Mr. Manning do wait on the Council and acquaint them therewith, and desire they will add to their Committee appointed for that Purpose, and appoint the Time and Place of Meeting.

Mr. *Camp* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

In Council-Chamber, Oct. 9, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* wait on the House of Assembly, and, in Answer to their Message of Yesterday, acquaint them that a Bill, intituled as in their Message is expressed, has not been received by this House; but the Council find by their Minutes that a Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, and to prescribe the Mode in which the same Security shall be taken*, was presented for their Concurrence in the Afternoon of the 8th Day of *October*, 1776; which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading: But, as the House of Assembly thought proper on the same Day to close the Sitting of the Legislature, the Council could not possibly give the Bill the necessary Consideration to pass it into a Law at that Sitting; and through the Hurry and Confusion which happened shortly afterwards, the Bill was mislaid or lost. That the Attention of the Council has not been with-held from the said Bill through any Dislike to the Subject and Design of it; on the Contrary, the Council think it highly expedient that such a Law should be passed, and would long since have prepared a Bill for the Purpose, had not Business, more immediately pressing, constantly demanded their Attention at every Sitting of the Legislature. In the mean Time the Council conceived that the Publick would not be injured, nor its Interests endangered by the Delay, as both the late and present Treasurer have given Security for the due Execution of the Office, to the Satisfaction of both Houses.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Condict*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 9, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Cox* be added to the Committee appointed the 19th of *September* last, to join the Committee of the House of Assembly to inspect the Minutes of the Council of Safety, so far as relates to the Expediture of the Money drawn from the Treasury: That the said Committees meet for that Purpose at the House of Mr. *Bergen* at six o'Clock this Evening; and that Mr. *Condict* acquaint the House of Assembly therewith.

Mr. *Dey*, from the Committee appointed to that Service, brought in a Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Fund by general Taxation for defraying the necessary Expences of the State*; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning nine o'Clock.

Friday, October 10, 1777.

The House met.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* carry the Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, and to prescribe the Mode in which the same Security shall be taken*, to the House of Assembly for Concurrence.

Which Bill was read, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Council-Chamber, Oct. 10, 1777.

HIS Excellency General *Washington* having requested that as many of the Militia of this State as can be spared, may be immediately ordered to join the Army under the Command of General *Putnam*, in the State of *New-York*;

Resolved,

That His Excellency the Governor be advised to order any Number of the Militia of this State, not exceeding one thousand Men, to be forthwith raised, in Addition to the two thousand lately advised to be sent to *Pennsylvania*; and that His Excellency be advised to order the said three thousand Men, or any Part of them, to join the grand Army in the State of *Pennsylvania*, or the Army under the Command of General *Putnam* in the State of *New-York*, as the Exigency of Affairs may require.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Condict* wait on the House of Assembly with the foregoing Resolution, and desire their Concurrence therein.

Which Message being read and considered;

Resolved,

That this House do concur in the Resolution contained in the said Message.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mebelm* and Mr. *Ver Bryck* do wait on the Council, and acquaint them therewith.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* carry the Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*, with the Amendments thereto, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Amendments: And that Mr. *Elmer* also carry the Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain the Law and Constitution of the State of New-Jersey, as to the quartering of, and furnishing of Carriages for the Army in the Service of the United-States of North-America, and for making some further Provision for the same*, to the House of Assembly, and desire their Concurrence in the said Bill.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Fund by general Taxation for defraying the necessary Expences of the State*, was read the second Time;

Ordered,

That the same be committed to a Committee of the whole House: Whereupon the House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the said Bill; and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. *Harris*, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that they had made some Progress in the Matters to them referred, and desired Leave to sit again; to which the House agreed.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*, with the Amendments made thereto by the Council, was read with the Amendments in their

Places;

Places; and, on the Question, The House agreed to all the said Amendments, except that in the thirty-first Line of the second Page of the said Bill, which the House rejects, and in that Part adhere to the Bill.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Mehelm* and Mr. *Mott* carry the said Bill to the Council, and acquaint them therewith.

Mr. *Mehelm* reported, that Mr. *Mott* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

The Bill, intitled, *An Act to explain the Law and Constitution of the State of New-Jersey, as to the quartering of, and furnishing Carriages for the Army in the Service of the United-States of North-America, and for making some further Provision for the same*, was read the first Time, and ordered a second Reading.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Symmes*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Symmes* acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intitled, *An Act to exempt twelve Men to be employed at the Sharpshorough Iron-Works, in the County of Sussex, from actual Service in the Militia, under the Restrictions and Regulations therein mentioned*: The Bill, intitled, *An Act for raising several Companies of Artillery, and also two Companies of Horse in Addition to the three Companies heretofore embodied in this State*: And the Bill, intitled, *An Act for erecting Salt-Works and manufacturing Salt within the State of New-Jersey*; are, without any Amendments, passed by this House.

Mr. *Coxe*, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council for dividing the State into Districts, made the following Report, to which the House agreed.

YOUR Committee appointed to join with a Committee of the Council in a free Conference on the Subject-Matter of dividing the State into Districts, and appointing Persons in each District to recruit Men for the continental Service, beg Leave to report,

That your Committee, in Conjunction with the Committee of the Council, have agreed that the several Counties in this State be deemed Districts for the Purposes aforesaid, and the Persons herein after-named are appointed in the several Districts to recruit Men for the continental Service, to wit, For the County of

MORRIS,	{ <i>Alexander Carmichael,</i> <i>William Youngs,</i>	} To rendezvous at <i>Morris-Town.</i>
BURLINGTON,	{ <i>John Leak,</i> <i>Captain Joseph Weaver,</i> <i>Captain Quigley,</i>	} Ditto at <i>Mount-Holly.</i>
CAPE-MAY,	{ <i>John Hand,</i> <i>James Willets,</i>	} Ditto at <i>James Willets.</i>
CUMBERLAND,	{ <i>Israel Pierfon,</i> <i>James Erwing,</i> <i>George Mac Glocklin,</i>	} Ditto at <i>Bridge-Town.</i>
BERGEN,	{ <i>David Marrenus,</i> <i>Cornelius Erwin,</i>	} Ditto at <i>Pumpton.</i>
MONMOUTH,	{ <i>Keneth Anderson,</i> <i>Gilbert Longstreet,</i>	} Ditto at the Court-house.
SOMERSET,		

SOMERSET,	{ John Baird, Joseph Casterlin, Jacob Flagg,	} To rendezvous at the Court-house.
SUSSEX,	{ Isaac Martin Benjamin Cuykindal, Emanuel Hover, William Carr,	} Ditto at the Court- house in <i>Suffex</i> .
GLOUCESTER,	{ Joseph Estell, William Price, Colonel Joseph Hillman, James Tallman,	} Ditto at <i>Woodbury</i> .
SALEM,	{ James Sterling, Captain John Kelly, Major Anthony Sharp,	} Ditto at the Town of <i>Salem</i> .
ESSEX,	{ David Ross, James Hedden, Abraham Spier,	} Ditto at <i>Newark</i> .
MIDDLESEX,	{ Robert Nixon, John Webster,	} Ditto at <i>New- Brunswick</i> .
HUNTERDON,	{ Jesse Hart, Richard Curwine, Jacob Anderson, of <i>Lebanon</i> , Samuel Grounendike,	} Ditto at <i>Fleming- ton</i> .

By Order of the Committees,

Princeton, October 10, 1777.

CHARLES COXE,
CALEB CAMP.

A Message from the Council by Mr. Condict.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 10, 1777.

THAT Mr. Condict carry back the Bill, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*, with the Amendments thereto annexed, to the House of Assembly, and acquaint them that the Council have receded from the Amendment made to the thirty-first Line of the second Page of the said Bill, which was rejected by the House of Assembly.

Ordered,

That the said Bill be re-engrossed.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Bill, intituled, *An Act for raising a Fund by general Taxation, &c.* and, after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. Harris, Chairman of the Committee, reported, that the Committee had gone through the said Bill, and made several Amendments thereto, which he was ready to report whenever the House would please to receive the same.

Ordered,

That the Report be made to-morrow Morning.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, &c.* was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain the Law and Constitution of the State of New-Jersey, as to the quartering of, and furnishing Carriages for*
the

the Army, &c. was read the second Time, and ordered a third Reading.

The House adjourned till to-morrow Morning eight o'Clock.

Saturday, October 11, 1777.

The House met.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to declare the Payment of Money into the Treasury a legal Discharge of Debt in certain Cases*, was read the second Time:

Ordered,

That the same be referred to the next Session of Assembly.

A Message from His Excellency by Mr. Secretary Pettit.

Gentlemen,

Princeton, Oct. 11, 1777.

IT would be an unnecessary Consumption of Time to enumerate all the Advantages that would redound to the State from having a Weekly News-Paper printed and circulated in it.—To facilitate such an Undertaking, it is proposed that the first Paper be circulated as soon as seven hundred Subscribers, whose Punctuality in paying may be relied upon, shall be procured: Or if Government will insure seven hundred Subscribers

DR.

STATE of NEW-JERSEY in Account current with

To Cash paid at sundry Times, per Account and

Vouchers rendered and allowed, from No. 1 to

No. 88, included, - - - -

£. 967: 0: 2

Balance due the State,

32: 19: 10

£. 1000: 0: 0

HAVING examined the above Accounts and Vouchers relative thereto, do find the Sum of *Thirty-two Pounds Nineteen Shillings and Ten Pence*, as mentioned above, to be due from *Caleb Camp*, Esquire, to the State of *New-Jersey*.

WILLIAM VER BRYCK,
ELLIS COOK,
JOHN COX.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to oblige the Treasurer of the State of New-Jersey to give Security for the due Execution of his Office, and to prescribe the Mode in which the same Security shall be taken*, was read the third Time; and, on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act to explain the Law and Constitution of the State of New-Jersey, as to the quartering of, and furnishing Carriages for the Army in the Service of the United-States of North-America, &c.* was read the third Time; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

Subscribers who shall pay, the Work will be immediately begun; and if at the End of six Months there shall be seven hundred or more Subscribers who will pay punctually, the Claim upon Government to cease. But if the Subscribers fall short of that Number, Government to become a Subscriber so as to make up that Number. The Price in these fluctuating Times can hardly be ascertained, but it is supposed it cannot at present be less than *Twenty-six Shillings* per Year, which will be but *Six Pence* a Paper.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The re-engrossed Bill, with the Amendments agreed to by both Houses, intituled, *A Supplement to an Act, intituled, An Act for regulating the Election of the Members of the Legislative-Council and Assembly, Sheriffs and Coroners of the State of New-Jersey*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Tullman* and Mr. *Ver Bryck* do carry the said Bill to the Council.

Mr. *Ver Bryck*, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council, to inspect the Minutes of the Council of Safety, so far as relates to the Money drawn from the Treasury, &c. made the following Report, to which the House agreed.

CALEB CAMP, Esquire, Treasurer to the Council of Safety,

CR.

By Cash received from *John Stevens*, Esquire, State

Treasurer, - - - - - £. 1000 : 0 : 0

Errors excepted,

CALEB CAMP.

Princeton, October 10, 1777.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Brown* and Mr. *Manning* do carry the said Bills to the Council, and acquaint them that the same are passed by this House without any Amendments.

Mr. *Brown* reported, that Mr. *Manning* and himself delivered the Bills with them entrusted, to the Vice-President in Council.

Mr. *Tullman* reported, that Mr. *Ver Bryck* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

A Memorial was presented by the Honourable *Nathaniel Scudder*, Esquire, setting forth, that he has had the Misfortune to be robbed of a considerable Sum of Money of his own, together with *One Hundred Dollars*, being Part of the Sum received by him for the Purpose of purchasing

chasing Cloathing for the continental Army; and also the whole Balance, then in his Hands; of the Monies arising upon the Prize-Sloop *Polly* and *Ann*; and that the Cloathing purchased by him had been forwarded to *Brunswick*, to be sent to the Northern Army, but was in a few Days after taken by the Enemy who took Possession of that Place; and praying the House would take the same under Consideration, and grant him Relief, either by giving him Credit in his Account for what was lost belonging to the Publick, or otherwise, as they shall think proper; which was read, and ordered a second Reading.

The Bill, intituled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, was read the second Time; on the Question,

Ordered,

That the same be engrossed.

The House adjourned till three, P. M.

The House met.

Mr. *Harris* reported the Bill, intituled, *An Act to raise a Fund by general Taxation, for defraying the necessary Expences of the State*, with the Amendments made thereto in a Committee of the whole House; and the same being read,

Ordered,

That it be referred to the next Session of Assembly.

It being near the Close of the Session, and the House not having Time to go through a Bill for the Relief of such Officers and Privates of the Militia as have been wounded or disabled in the Service of this State, and the Widows of such of them as have lost their Lives in the said Service;

Resolved,

That the President and Council of Safety be empowered, on Application to them, to give such temporary Relief to the Persons above mentioned, as they shall find equitable and necessary, and draw on the Treasury for Money for that Purpose, and lay the Account of their Disbursements before the next Assembly.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Moore*s and Mr. *Peter*son do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

The engrossed Bill, intituled, *An Act for defraying sundry Incidental Charges*, was read and compared; on the Question,

Resolved,

That the same do pass.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Vandike* and Mr. *Buck* do carry the said Bill to the Council, for their Concurrence.

Mr. *Vandike* reported, that Mr. *Buck* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Ordered,

That such of the Members as have settled their Accounts of the Expenditure of the Monies by them received for purchasing Cloathing, do get a Certificate of the same of some one of the Committee appointed to settle the said Accounts, and thereupon call on the Treasurer for their Receipts.

Resolved,

That the Treasurer of this State be directed to call in the Arrearages due

due from the several Counties ; and that the sinking the same be deferred, and the Money applied to the Exigencies of the State ; and that the Treasurer be allowed the same Fees on all the Sinking-Fund Tax by him received and paid out, as he would be entitled to if the same was sunk as heretofore.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Holmes* and Mr. *Mehelm* do wait on the Council, and desire their Concurrence in the said Resolution.

Mr. *Moore*s reported, that Mr. *Peterfon* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Holmes* reported, that Mr. *Mehelm* and himself obeyed the Order of the House.

Mr. *Camp*, from the Committee appointed to join a Committee of the Council to settle the Treasurer's Accounts, made the following Report :

WE the Committee of the Council and Assembly appointed to settle the Accounts of the present Treasurer of this State, and make Report thereof to the Houses, having examined the several Debits and Credits contained in ten Sheets of Paper, commencing in *March 1777*, and ending in *September* following, and the Vouchers from No. 1 to No. 195, inclusive, relative thereto, and being fully satisfied therewith, do find the Balance therein stated of *Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Twelve Pounds Three Shillings and Two Pence* remaining in the Hands of the said Treasurer on the said Account.

JOHN CLEVES SYMMES,
SILAS CONDUCT,
JOHN COX,
CALEB CAMP,
JAMES MOTT, jun.
REOLOFF SEBRING.

October 11, 1777.

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Scudder*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 11, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Scudder* acquaint the House of Assembly, that this House have concurred in the Resolution contained in their Message of this Day, " That the President and Council of Safety of this State, be empowered, on Application, to give such temporary Relief to such Officers and Privates of the Militia as have been wounded or disabled in the Service of the State, and the Widows of such of them as have lost their Lives in the said Service, as they shall find equitable and necessary ; and draw on the Treasury for the Money for that Purpose, and lay the Account of their Disbursements before the next Assembly."

A Message from the Council by Mr. *Elmer*.

Ordered,

Council-Chamber, Oct. 11, 1777.

THAT Mr. *Elmer* acquaint the House of Assembly, that this House have concurred in the Resolutions contained in their Message of this Afternoon, " That the Treasurer of this State be directed to call in the Arrearages due from the several Counties, and that the sinking the same be deferred, and the Money applied to the Exigencies of the State ; and that the Treasurer be allowed the same Fees on all the Sinking-Fund Tax by him received and paid out, as he would be entitled to if the same was sunk as heretofore."

A Message from the Council by Mr. Symmes.

Ordered, Council-Chamber, Oct. 11, 1777.
THAT Mr. Symmes acquaint the House of Assembly that the Bill, intituled, *An Act for defraying sundry incidental Charges*, is passed by this House without any Amendments.

Ordered,
That the Printer send the Laws and Votes of the present Sitting, when printed, by Express to one of the nearest Members of each respective County, in the same Proportion as usual.

The House having gone through all the Business before them which could be compleated before the Time for which they were elected would expire, accordingly rose and closed the Session.

BY VIRTUE of an ORDER of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the STATE of *New-Jersey*, I do hereby appoint *Isaac Collins* of *Burlington*, to print these Votes.

JOHN HART, Speaker.

End of the first Session

